3 DPWH directors suspended for 'ghost' repairs STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Gov't, Reds soften talk of all-out war

Joma: Just analyzing, not ordering NPA attacks

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Martin P. Marfil, *in Manila*

JUST an analysis, not an order for the Communist New People's Army to topple electrical towers and lines.

Exiled communist leader Jose Maria Sison made this clarification after his directive to the NPA to destroy power installations was met with howls of protest as it would adversely affect the people he claimed to be fighting for.

In a statement yesterday, however, Sison said the possibility of the NPA hitting electrical towers and lines "was still something to be decided by the collective organs of leadership in the Philippines."

Asked in an e-mail if the two power plants in Quezon were legitimate targets of the NPA, Sison replied: "I believe that if that possibility or option is carried out, the NPA will take all precautions so that no ordinary civilians are killed or injured. It is very logical that electric plants in crowded areas will not be hit."

To further prove his point, he said, "Nobody was killed or injured when electric pylons fell and electric lines short-circuited at certain points far away from the population during the last years of (Ferdinand) Marcos."

"If he (Sison) had made that call, then what he said is a madman's recipe for mayhem," said a member of the House of Representatives. "It proves that Sison is not pro-people because his order would affect industries and cause massive layoffs," another legislator said.

In a press statement dated Aug. 6, Sison had urged the NPA to "go into special operations such as destroying electrical towers and lines like during the final years of Marcos."

He said these operations would "deliver telling blows to the regime in terms of calculated economic disruption and clear inability of the regime to provide a profitable environ-

GOV'T/A16

REBECCA RUGA: No money to come home when her husband died six months ago.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL condoles with Pablo and Inez Lagunilla, parents of Adelina Cunanan in Minalin, Pampanga, small comfort for an irreplaceable loss. EDWIN BACASMAS

Wycoco rules out public apology

By Carlito Pablo
and Philip C. Tubeza

THERE will be no public apology coming from the National Bureau of Investigation to Land Bank of the Philippines cashier Acsa Ramirez in connection with her wrongful presentation in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo as a suspect in the P203-million tax diversion scam.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday stood firm in his decision not to apologize.

Wycoco admitted the NBI did not know that it was Ramirez who had exposed the tax scam. "Nobody told us she was the whistle-blower," he said. "I met her only that afternoon" (Friday, Aug. 2).

He denied Ramirez's claim that NBI officials apologized to her "privately" on Monday.

"*Pasensya na* (No offense), but we did not do anything wrong," Wycoco said. "We were conducting a correct investigation. If we were to apologize to all those we investigated, the NBI would become an apology shop."

Neither is Malacañang prepared as yet to eat humble pie.

Asked yesterday over radio station dzMM whether the Palace would issue a public apology, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the matter was "still under investigation."

"We will request the comment of (Justice) Secretary (Hernando) Perez regarding this incident," Bunye said. He conceded that "*hindi nga maganda ang dating* (it doesn't look good), but we just would like to check the details."

In an interview over dzRH, Perez said he would look closely into the matter. "I'm afraid I'd make a mistake," he said.

WYCOCO/A4

Rebecca, Adelina coming home for good

By Mei Magsino, *PDI S. Luzon Bureau*
Tonette Orejas, *PDI C. Luzon Bureau*
and Blanche S. Rivera, *in Manila*

BANSUD, Oriental Mindoro—In Rebecca Ruga's last call to her mother, she asked what the old woman would like as a *pasalubong* (present) from Israel.

Rebecca's elder sister Febe Manposte, like herself a caregiver in Israel, was then due to come home this month. And their mother Rosario, 68, said she wanted anything that could be displayed in their home.

Tomorrow night when Febe is scheduled to arrive, she will bring with her, not the present that their mother wanted, but Rebecca's remains.

Rebecca Ruga, 39, and Adelina Cunanan, 43, were among those killed in the suicide bombing Sunday in northern Israel. Their remains are scheduled to arrive on Lufthansa Airlines flight LH744 at 6:45 p.m. tomorrow, and will be shipped to

REBECCA/A16

3 attackers of Pakistan school blow selves up

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Three men, suspected of killing six people in an attack on a Christian school in Pakistan, blew themselves up Tuesday after they were challenged at a police checkpoint.

Kashmir police officer Haji Syed Haseeb Hussain on Wednesday said the body of one of the gunmen had been recovered on a riverbank and a search had been launched for the bodies of his two companions.

"These are the same attackers," Hussain told The Associated Press.

Three young men armed with assault rifles on Monday stormed the Murree Christian School in Jhika Gali, which was attended by 146 children of foreign missionaries working in Muslim Pakistan.

The gunmen opened fire, killing six Pakistanis, including two security guards.

Three others were wounded, including Filipino NGO worker Juliet Visitacion whose two children are studying at the school. Visitacion has been discharged at a hospital after she was treated for a hand wound.

Police in surrounding areas were put on high alert after the attackers escaped following a 15-minute battle with three other school guards.

When policemen at a checkpoint saw three men approach in the nearby village of Khabadar, about 40 km of Murree, they became suspicious.

One of the men resisted efforts to frisk him but the policemen overpowered him. One of suspicious-looking men then threatened to explode a grenade

3 ATTACKERS/A15

Gokongwei brod accused of sexual abuse

ACCUSER
Mariquit Soriano

Seeks ₱25M in damages

By Blanche S. Rivera

A COMPLAINT has been filed before the National Labor Relations Commission against a brother of business tycoon John Gokongwei for allegedly causing the dismissal of an employee from a Gokongwei-owned company after she refused his sexual advances.

Mariquit Soriano, 51, former director of the marketing and communications department of Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc. (Digitel), demanded around P25 million in damages and compensation, claiming that she was illegally and constructively dismissed from the company.

In her complaint, Soriano accused Gokongwei's brother, Johnson Robert Go, Digitel's senior executive vice president and chief operating officer, and Eric Severino, formerly senior vice president, of sexual abuse.

Soriano also filed last June a case

FORMER/A16

THE ACCUSED
Johnson Robert Go: Absurd and impossible allegations taking into consideration her advance age.

'She must be hallucinating'

By Agnes E. Donato
and Abigail L. Ho

"SHE must be hallucinating to come up with these allegations, taking into consideration her advance age." This was how the accused Johnson Robert Go reacted to a former employee's charge of sexual harassment.

"Untruthful, absurd and impossible allegations" from "a 49-year-old grandmother," said Go, chief operating officer of Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc. (Digitel).

In her complaint filed in the National Labor Relations Commission, Mariquit Soriano, 51, had alleged that Go and fellow executive Eric Severino had committed acts of lasciviousness against her several times in 1999 and once in 2000.

Soriano was 49 at the time the alleged sexual abuse started in 1999. She quit Digitel in June 2000.

Lance Gokongwei, Digitel director and nephew of accused Johnson Go, said it seemed a bit strange that the issue came out just now, while the Gokongwei family is

SHE/A16

TV, ref–not carabaos–now mark farmers' success

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

TELEVISION sets and refrigerators, not carabaos, are the symbols of a farmer's economic well-being these days.

The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) has found that more and more agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) are buying television sets and refrigerators as a result of their improved income.

PIDS fellow Celia M. Reyes said ownership of these appliances—luxuries to farmers but basic to urban dwellers—was an indicator of a farming household's economic well-being.

"In particular, certain assets are highly correlated with poverty status," Reyes said in a recent study titled "Impact of Agrarian Reform on Poverty."

TV/A4

Second FRONT PAGE

Ebdane kin held in drug bust

AGENTS of the newly formed Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) have arrested a relative of Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. and a cohort during a drug buy-bust operation in Quezon City Tuesday night.

The operatives also seized some 200 grams of shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride, with estimated street value of P400,000, from Oliver Renato Ebdane, 40, and Godofredo Siochi, 39, both of Quezon City.

General Ebdane presented the suspects to the media yesterday and admitted that one of the suspects is the son of a distant cousin and hails from his hometown in Gandelaria, Zambales.

The agents nabbed the suspects after the latter handed over a pack of the substance to a poseur-buyer.

3 DPWH execs in car repair scam sacked

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

"THE HIGHER they go, the harder they fall," said President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday as she suspended three Department of Public Works and Highways officials implicated in a P139-million vehicle repair scam.

The three bureau directors, along with 38 DPWH employees, were found to have charged to the department P139.63 million in unnecessary or "ghost" repairs of DPWH vehicles last year alone.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong relieved the 41 employees last month, pending the filing of administrative charges against them.

But the three directors were reinstated, being Presidential appointees.

Yesterday, Ms Macapagal placed them under preventive suspension effective immediately.

"These three must be at the top of the list of respondents," she said during her visit to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System office in Quezon City.

"I hope this would serve as a strong signal to others who think they could get away with wrongdoing just because they are Presidential appointees."

Those suspended were Emily Tanquintic, director, Comptrollership and Financial Management; Bert Paborito, director, Administrative and Manpower; and Florendo Arias, assistant director, Bureau of Equipment.

Ms Macapagal also ordered Datumanong to investigate two department undersecretaries, whom she did not name, for not immediately reporting the anomaly.

The DPWH began looking into the vehicle repair scam in January.

On June 23, the fact-finding committee chaired by Datumanong's chief of staff, Lorenzo Sulaik, found the 41 employees, including the three bureau directors, were involved.

Since the three were Presidential appointees, Datumanong referred their cases to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

Ms Macapagal asked government corporate counsel Amado Valdez to lead the prosecution of the three officials.

According to the President, the DPWH is made up of "... good men and women. We don't want the majority who are good to be tarnished by the few who are bad."

Jalosjos post up for grabs in Aug. 26 poll

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COMMISSION on Elections will hold special elections on Aug. 26 to install the replacement of Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos, who was convicted for raping an 11-year-old girl in 1996.

But Congress may have yet to deal with another Jalosjos as the relieved congressman's sister, Cecilia Carreon, mayor of Pinan town in Zamboanga del Norte, is widely rumored to be seeking Jalosjos' post.

Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco said that Carreon and a provincial board member supported by the Adaza group in the province were the likely candidates to succeed Jalosjos.

Tancangco, however, said that the Comelec has yet to finalize preparations for the special elections as it was still overseeing yet another upcoming elections in Mindanao.

Voters are expected to troop to polling centers in some parts of Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Zamboanga on Aug. 10 while towns who had a failure of barangay and youth elections in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and Region 12 would hold elections on Aug. 13.

Tancangco, who is the commissioner in charge of the concerned areas, said that there are at least 341 barangays who would have the special elections on Saturday and Tuesday.

She said that the military personnel would serve as election tellers in Parang and Talipao, Sulu, where tension is high among the competing clans.

Teachers and Comelec personnel will compose the board of election tellers in other areas, she said although the teachers who had earlier refused to serve out of fear would no longer be tapped.

RP must find jobs for youth –ADB

THE PHILIPPINES must ensure that jobs are available for its youth as they reach working age to cash in on a "demographic dividend," and stave off poverty, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Wednesday.

The bank said declining fertility rates, down one child to 4.4 per woman from last year, and lower infant mortality would add another 50 million to the Filipino population of 80 million by 2050.

During that time the Philippines, along with neighbors Indonesia and Malaysia, would experience a "demographic dividend" when the "growth of the working age population peaks compared to the number of economic dependents," the Manila-based bank said in a statement.

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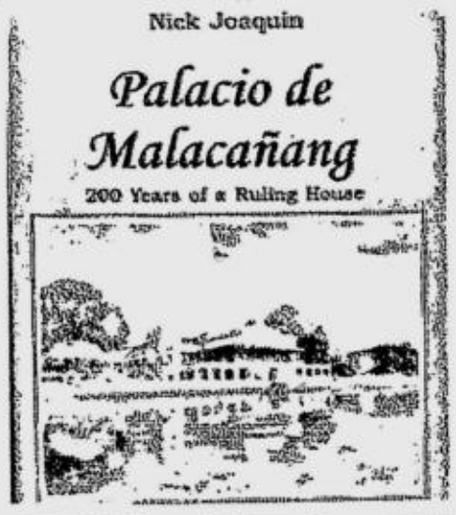

NATIONAL artist Nick Joaquin and internationally acclaimed painter-writer and book designer Alfredo Roces weave a compelling narration of the unique and fascinating saga of Malacañang Palace, and the personages that lived, worked and made history in its rooms in a 367-paged book entitled "Palacio de Malacañang; 200 Years of a Ruling House." The book will be launched at the Malacañang Palace today.

Inspired and initiated by Leandro V. Locsin, the late National Artist for Architecture, the publication of this unique symbol of our cultural heritage is the maiden venture of the Society for the Preservation of Philippine Culture (SPPC), originally known as the Museo ng Malacañang Foundation (MMF).

MMF was formed in 1986 at the request of President Corazon C. Aquino with a mission to transform the Palace into a vibrant historical museum available to all, apart from being the official residence of Philippine Presidents and a venue for Cabinet meetings and State ceremonies.

Ople orders probe of Pinoys' maltreatment

FOREIGN Secretary Blas Ople yesterday ordered the country's mission in Kuala Lumpur to investigate allegations that Malaysian authorities had ill-treated Filipino illegal immigrants.

Ople cautioned against calls by senators to file a diplomatic protest with the Malaysian government over the issue, saying Manila needed to investigate first.

Some 120 Filipino illegals, 60 of them children, in the eastern Malaysian state of Sabah were allegedly sent back to the Philippines on a fishing vessel designed only to carry a quarter of the load.

They arrived in Zamboanga City late Monday after being rescued by a Philippine Coast Guard vessel.

It was not clear when the Filipinos were shipped out of the Malaysian state, but the coastguard said its vessel picked them up off the Tawi-Tawi island group near the sea border with Malaysia. ***AFP***

DILG anti-poverty workshop on today

LOCAL Government Secretary Jose D. Lina Jr. has ordered all local government heads, operations and poverty reduction officers to keep abreast with programs and strategies that have proven effective in providing jobs and livelihood opportunities for the poor.

In the same order, Lina urged the LGU executives to participate in the three-day "Seminar Workshop on Local Government Initiatives for Poverty Reduction" at the Holiday Inn on UN Avenue in Manila starting today at the Royal Mandaya Hotel in Davao City on Sept. 19 to 21.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Carpio role questioned

SEN. Teresa Aquino-Oreta asked the Supreme Court yesterday to look into the reported involvement of Justice Antonio Carpio Jr. and his brother in controversial independent power producer (IPP) contracts signed during the Ramos administration.

Oreta was reacting to a report by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) that raised the possible involvement of Carpio and his brother, who was not identified, in two IPP projects.

She said their alleged involvement could lead to a conflict-of-interest situation should cases involving the IPPs reach the high court.

The PCIJ report said the two contracts were signed when Carpio was chief legal counsel to then President Fidel Ramos in 1995. *Cynthia D. Balana*

'Don't fear Church'

PRO-CHOICE members of Congress yesterday urged fellow solons not to be intimidated by the Catholic Church and push for the use of contraceptives to curb runaway population growth.

Aurora Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo said some bishops and priests approached House members last year, threatening them with loss of votes if they continued to support methods other than natural birth control.

Angara-Castillo said the ploy worked as many solons withdrew their support for the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development Foundation Inc., which is composed of 50 members of Congress, out of fear of the influential Catholic Church. *Blanche S. Rivera*

Rift must be very deep

APPARENTLY, not even President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of war against leftist groups could bring rivals Kilusang Mayo Uno and the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino together.

The BMP labor group yesterday tried to reach out to rival KMU and suggested they "forge a historic alliance to defend trade union rights and labor standards," in the face of the President's "all-out war" against leftist movements, including trade unions.

Instead of accepting the offer, however, KMU scored its rival and called its members "opportunists."

BMP, a KMU breakaway group, was formed in 1993, following a split in the leftist movement due to "ideological and political differences."

KMU spokesperson Joel Maglunsod said his group remained firm against forming any alliance with the BMP. *Agnes E. Donato*

BIR, Customs admit shortfall

By Cynthia D. Balana

OFFICIALS of the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs admitted yesterday they would not be able to meet revenue collection targets under the proposed P820-billion national budget for 2003 and for the next five years.

The admission was made by BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez and BOC Commissioner Antonio Bernardo at a hearing of the Senate committee on ways and means chaired by Sen. Ralph Recto.

Bañez said the P447-billion BIR collection target for next year would be difficult to achieve, while Bernardo said the P115-billion target for his bureau could not be met.

Because of this, Recto said, the budget deficit could reach P160 billion this year.

The BIR sees a flat collection growth rate, while the BOC sees declining collections with tariffs at a low average of six percent this year from average tariffs of 18 percent in 1990.

"The expected collection shortfall will affect the target deficit. But if we include the accounts payable, I think the government only has to find P200 billion to finance the actual deficit for next year," Recto said.

To achieve a balanced budget, Recto said the government would either have to slash the budget, raise taxes or increase borrowings.

At this point, he said, cutting back on expenditures was not possible.

He also said his committee was steadfast in its "no new taxes" policy.

This year's national budget has the lowest capital outlay at one-half of one percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), from a high of 3.5 percent during the Ramos administration.

Capital outlay expenditures—infrastructure—determine the country's capacity for future growth, Recto said.

But Sen. Edgardo Angara blamed the administration for not making an aggressive effort to collect some P330 billion in fees and charges that various parties owe to the government.

The amount represents the total accounts receivable of the state's non-revenue agencies.

"The Macapagal administration should show aggressiveness in the collection of accounts receivable as its revenue collection has dropped to record low levels," he said.

Angara lamented the lack of creativity and intensity in the collection of revenues, which he said might be attributed to the dominance of former investment bankers in the administration's economic team.

"The former investment bankers have opted for a policy of massive borrowing instead of improving the revenue effort and the collections of the non-revenue agencies," he said.

Angara said the country's tax effort—revenue collections over gross domestic product—was at 11.2 percent and was the lowest in Southeast Asia.

He said other countries in the region have tax efforts of 19 to 22 percent of GDP.

Angara said that because of the poor performance of the revenue-generating agencies, the budget deficit for the first six months of the year was already at 92 percent of the targeted P130-billion deficit for 2002.

In the House of Representatives, several congressmen led by Southern Leyte's Aniceto Saludo are set to file a plunder charge against Bañez for allegedly favoring the businesses of a former colleague, Manny Pangilinan, chief executive officer of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Saludo said yesterday former senator Juan Ponce Enrile will be meeting with him about a possible collaboration in the case against Bañez.

Saludo said Enrile had been given documents against Bañez by his own sources.

"We will assess and analyze the documents," Saludo said.

He also said human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong, through the Public Interest Law Center, might help.

But Capulong, in another phone interview, said he had told Saludo PILC lawyers would still have to evaluate the documents in the case before deciding whether to accept it or not.

Capulong is busy in his new position as a judge in the United Nations International Crime Tribunal.

Bañez has denied Saludo's accusations, calling them "rehashed lies." ***With Christine O. Avendaño***

Erap lawyers dared to present Chavit tapes

By Volt Contreras

"JUETENGATE" whistle-blower, former Ilocos Sur governor Luis "Chavit" Singson, yesterday dared the defense in the plunder trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada to let the court hear "audiotapes" of wire-tapped conversations he had with their client and two other accused.

Singson was apparently referring to the audiotapes he had played at his press conferences after he exposed Estrada's alleged receipt of jueteng payola in October 2000.

The prosecution's star witness made the dare after the defense panel submitted as evidence a videotape that purportedly portrayed Singson as someone who continues to receive favor from the Macapagal administration.

Estrada lawyer Prospero Crescini marked as defense evidence a VHS cassette said to contain footage of Ms Macapagal delivering a speech at Singson's 61st birthday party last June 21 in Payoyo, Ilocos Sur.

In that speech, according to Crescini, the President said she showed up for the occasion because, "*baka magtampo si* Chavit *sa akin* (Chavit might bear a grudge)."

Singson said if the defense has the VHS tape shown in court, it should also agree to the playing of his taped "conversations" with Estrada, Charlie "Atong" Ang and Yolanda Ricaforte.

In those tapes, he said, Ang pleaded with him to settle his differences with Estrada over the awarding of the Bingo 2 Ball franchise to his cousin and political rival, Eric Singson.

On Oct. 12, 2000, Singson presented at a press conference at the Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC) audiotapes of four conversations he had with Ang.

He told the MOPC audience that an anonymous source had handed him the tapes the day before.

Earlier, he had accused then Armed Forces intelligence chief, Gen. Jose Calimlim, of bugging his telephone.

At his Oct. 9 press conference at Club Filipino, which marked his first public attack against Estrada, Singson had played another tape, this time with Ricaforte, Estrada's "auditor" for the monthly collections he made from jueteng operators.

At the stand yesterday, Singson made reference to another tape supposedly of him and Estrada talking—although this had yet to surface.

Gloria honors hostages as 'modern-day heroes'

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has formally honored American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap as national heroes.

Although she was not personally present when the people's organization Kilos Bayan and Bantay Katarungan gave the awards, her name was on the citations given to the "modern-day heroes."

The President was represented during the awarding rites by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

"Martin would have been surprised if he learned that he would be honored this way," Gracia Burnham said in her acceptance statement, recorded on video from their home in Wichita, Kansas.

Gracia said that she is looking forward to returning to the Philippines, where she and husband Martin served as missionaries to various tribes people for 15 years before they were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf.

All seems going well for the lone survivor of the year-long hostage situation that saw Martin and Edibora getting killed in the crossfire between Filipino soldiers and Abu Sayyaf bandits.

"My leg is now healing. My children and I are planning to go back to our home and take back our lives," Gracia said, still smiling and gracious enough to remember the country with fond memories instead of bitterness.

"I hope to see all of you once I get back there some time soon," Gracia said.

She also repeated her parting words at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport several months ago. "Our hearts will always stay in the Philippines," she said.

Wycoco rules out public apology

From page A1

President Macapagal will have an opportunity to rectify matters—or not—when she visits the Landbank headquarters today on the occasion of its anniversary.

Bill filed

Ramirez's presentation to the media as a suspect on Friday has prompted Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama to file a bill seeking punishment for the offense.

The proposed "Anti-False Witness Act of 2002" reads in part: "It is hereby declared illegal to publicly name and present as suspects persons who are wrongfully accused of certain offenses, and to do such in the presence of media facilities such as but not limited to print, broadcast and television, without clear and formal charges filed by the courts."

It proposes dismissal for government officials found guilty of the offense and payment of from P500,000 to P1.8 million in damages to the aggrieved person.

In filing the bill, Villarama invoked the constitutional provision mandating the protection of human dignity.

Ramirez had blown the whistle on the tax diversion scam. But she ended up being presented as a suspect in a press conference at the National Bureau of Investigation at which the President was present.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the President should apologize for Ramirez's humiliation, and make Wycoco accountable for it.

Pimentel also told radio station dyLA in Cebu City that in other countries, a public official who committed such a mistake would be fired or told to resign.

"But at the very least, they should apologize because what happened (to Ramirez) was bad," he said, adding that what happened on Friday was not the first time that the President was given wrong information.

Not as a suspect

But Perez said that based on a report submitted to him, Ramirez was not presented as a suspect when the President went to the NBI headquarters on Aug. 2.

"I don't know why there was this impression (to that effect)," Perez said.

He said that should Ramirez decide to claim damages, she could do so before the Board of Claims of the Department of Justice.

In a statement issued later yesterday, the Office of the Press Secretary said Ramirez was presented to Ms Macapagal "as someone under investigation by the NBI in connection with the money laundering case at the Landbank branch in Binangonan."

It pointed out that Ramirez had neither been charged nor cleared by the NBI.

It added: "The President has ordered the NBI to expedite the investigation and let the evidence settle this controversy. Mrs. Ramirez should be cleared or charged, as soon as possible, as the evidence warrants."

Ramirez's legal counsel Virginia Suarez-Pinlac said she did not mind the administration's refusal to make a public apology as long as it would be made clear that her client was a witness, not a suspect.

The lawyer added that Ramirez was willing to cooperate with the government even after her traumatic experience.

Also over dzRH, Ramirez's husband Feliciano said his family had no plans of suing the government.

But he said his wife was "really traumatized" because she had expected to be treated as a star witness.

He aired this unsolicited piece of advice to the government: "I hope that persons who wish to help in going after erring employees and officials of government . . . are given protection."

Implicated

At the NBI, Wycoco said that at the back of his mind Friday, Ramirez was technically a suspect when she was brought to bureau headquarters.

"When you are implicated by another person, then necessarily you are a suspect," he said.

According to Wycoco, Ramirez was invited to the NBI because Landbank Binangonan branch manager Artemio San Juan—who has been charged with 17 counts of violation of the anti-money laundering law in the DOJ—implicated her in connection with another irregularity.

Ramirez exposed the tax diversion scam to her superiors. The NBI began looking into the case after being informed by the Landbank and the Bureau of Internal Revenue about it. The Landbank suspended and charged three of its officials, including San Juan and Ramirez's predecessor, for the scam even before the NBI began its inquiry.

Wycoco was to fly to Davao that Friday but had to return to headquarters because the President suddenly arrived there.

He said Ramirez was brought before the President because the latter wanted to meet her.

"We never said (Ramirez) was a suspect. Even in her (media) interviews, she admitted that we never called her a suspect," he said.

Wycoco said that the President was briefed before Ramirez was presented to the media, and that she apparently got the impression that Ramirez was a suspect.

Bonsalagen account

Wycoco also clarified that Ramirez was not a suspect in the tax scam but was interviewed by the NBI because San Juan implicated her in a fraudulent P26-billion check deposit into the "Bonsalagen account" at LBP Binangonan.

This account is different from the four fraudulent accounts used by the syndicate behind the tax scam.

A certain S. Majatin made the deposit in a China Bank check.

Pinlac said Ramirez reported to her superiors the Bonsalagen account in June.

In his sworn statement, San Juan accused Ramirez of having "a hand in the approval of the opening of the (Bonsalagen) account" and even signed the "check's clearing."

But Pinlac said: "That is not true. She did not sign the approval but the transmittal slip."

According to the lawyer, a transmittal slip is a summary of all the check deposits on a given day. She said that had Ramirez not signed the slip, the bank's operations would have been interrupted.

"She cannot at any instance hold up the process. It is standard operating procedure to sign that," Pinlac said.

The lawyer also said that Ramirez immediately informed San Juan about the fraudulent account, and that it was San Juan who approved the check deposit even after Ramirez's complaint.

A troubled Ramirez then informed Landbank assistant vice president Carmencita Bayot, who in turn checked with China Bank and found that the check was spurious.

GMA acting as prosecutor

Pimentel said the blunder could have been avoided had the President stopped "acting as a prosecutor of those arrested by the police for the benefit of the media."

His colleague in the opposition, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, said this could deal a severe blow to the administration's campaign against corruption.

Oreta had earlier filed a measure also seeking to ban the presentation of arrested suspects in the absence of formal charges. ***With reports from Juliet L. Javellana and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

TV, ref . . .

From page A1

"For instance, a study conducted in 1998 finds that ownership of refrigerators is very strongly correlated with being non-poor," she said.

The study made use of data academic groups gathered in 1990 and in 2000 from 1,800 farm households in different parts of the country.

In 1990, the number of ARB families with TV sets was 27.2 percent higher than non-ARB households with the appliance.

Also, the percentage of ARB families that owned TV sets rose to 53.7 percent in 2000, almost double the percentage in 1990. As for non-ARB households, 49.4 percent owned TV sets in 2000.

The proportion of households (whether ARBs or not) that owned refrigerators in 1990 was fairly small—10.9 percent of ARB households and 9.4 percent of non-ARBs. But in 2000, 37.9 percent and 25.5 percent of ARB families and non-ARB families, respectively, had refrigerators.

The number of households owning appliances rose because of their growing income.

The PIDS study found that per capita income of ARBs increased by 12.2 percent over the 10-year period. The average household income in 1990 was P49,594 for ARBs and P39,142 for non-ARBs. In 2000, it was P98,653 for ARBs and P76,156 for non-ARBs.

The study also found that poverty incidence among beneficiaries of agrarian reform declined from 47.6 percent in 1990 to 45.2 percent in 2000. Instead of declining, the poverty incidence among non-ARBs rose slightly from 55.1 percent in 1990 to 56.4 percent in 2000.

Reyes noted that the difference in poverty incidence between the two groups widened in 2000 to 11.2 percent from 7.5 percent in 1990.

She partly attributed the lower poverty incidence in the first group to increased productivity.

The average land productivity of ARBs is P20,429 compared with only P8,032 for non-ARBs. Land productivity is computed by dividing the peso value of farm output by total farm size.

"The higher land productivity of ARBs could partly explain the observed lower poverty incidence among ARBs," Reyes said

GMA's high visibility part of media strategy says Perez

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's high visibility is part of a media strategy to ensure maximum exposure for her administration's war on crime.

"We have discussed (the presentation of criminal suspects) with the President," Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday. "(She) wants members of the Cabinet to tell the media, the people, what we are doing in our fight against criminality."

Perez said that while "the media is, of course cooperative," news of the administration's achievements landed on the inside pages of newspapers when Cabinet officials did the reporting. "Whereas if it is the President who appears (before the media)," he said, "(the news) lands on the front page.

"It is probably for that reason that the President, although she is very busy, takes an active hand in it," he added.

Perez said Cabinet officials or concerned agency heads would do the job "once the mood has been set."

Asked if he personally favored Ms Macapagal's change of public image from schoolteacher to crime-buster, he said: "She is my boss. I follow the No. 1 rule that the boss is always right."

Perez dismissed concerns that the presentation of criminal suspects had legal implications.

"There is no human rights violation, or violation of any kind, by presenting them," he said.

He also said critics should be able to distinguish a mere suspect from a hardened criminal.

"There are suspects who are caught in the act, (so they are) subjected to inquest investigation. Therefore (they) are not considered mere suspect(s). (They are) already accused," he said.

But those who are not caught red-handed, "I will agree, they are entitled to some degree of privacy," he said.

A STRONG REPUBLIC NEEDS A STRONG AGRO-INDUSTRIAL BASE

WE, members of industries, labor, agricultural sector and civil society, support you, Madame President, in your desire to build a 'strong republic.' Indeed, a strong Philippine Republic, committed to social justice and democratic participation, through a democratic government biased for the poor and with strong institutions is a vision we all share.

But it might have been left unsaid, Madame President, that the most stable foundation for a 'strong republic'– for which we should all be laying our 'finest stones' – is a strong agro-industrial base. Only a vibrant, expanding and value-adding agro-industrial base, with Filipino entrepreneurs and labor firmly in place, can sustain the economy, finance essential services for all citizens, particularly the impoverished segments of our society and, above all, ensure decent and quality jobs to our ever-increasing population.

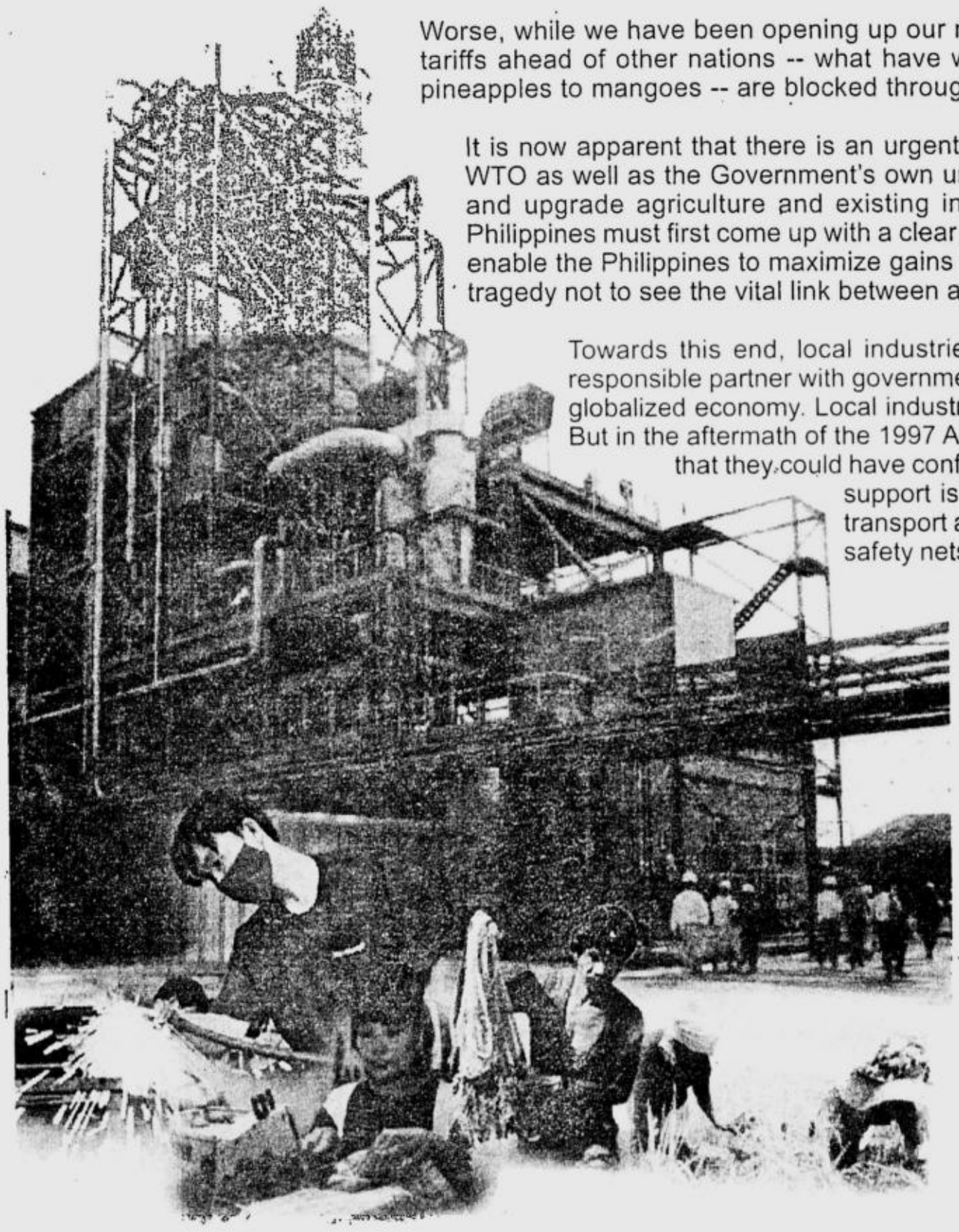
Unfortunately, the agro-industrial base of the Philippines is badly eroded due to the economic liberalization program that was implemented without the requisite infrastructures and an accompanying industrial modernization program. Since the mid-1990s, tariffs have been reduced unilaterally and across the board without any enabling program for our farmers and industries to gain from a globalized economic environment.

Instead, our local industries and agricultural producers are in distress. Our economic policy forced the premature opening of our market to the flood of foreign goods and abandoned our local industries and agricultural producers to the perils of predatory trading practices. Tariffs on imported goods were unilaterally reduced at accelerated speed without regard to its debilitating effects on existing industries and agricultural producers. Worse, even safety nets, such as access to credit and subsidies, and those sanctioned by the WTO itself, such as safeguard and anti-dumping measures, are not enforced effectively. Blinded by the rhetoric of absolute free trade, implementing agencies failed to comprehend the need to insure the viability of such crucial safety nets.

As a result, our local industries in the tomato, onion, garlic, fruits, livestock and fishery sectors, in petrochemicals and plastics, in cement, automotive assembly, automotive parts manufacture, in textile and clothing, in footwear, in construction supplies, battery, in electronics and appliance and many others are beleaguered by the swamp of imports spawned by the accelerated lowering of tariffs. Unless reversed, the march to oblivion of local industries and local jobs will continue and agriculture may never become efficient and responsive to the needs of the people and the national economy.

Worse, while we have been opening up our market for imported products, accelerating the reduction of our tariffs ahead of other nations -- what have we gotten in return? Our products --- from tuna to bananas to pineapples to mangoes -- are blocked through every imaginable and unimaginable barrier.

It is now apparent that there is an urgent need to review Philippine trade commitments to AFTA and the WTO as well as the Government's own unilateral tariff reduction program based on the need to preserve and upgrade agriculture and existing industries. Before we can commit to further liberalization, the Philippines must first come up with a clear program of agro-industrial survival and modernization that would enable the Philippines to maximize gains from a globalized economic environment. It will be an economic tragedy not to see the vital link between agriculture and industry in the case of the Philippines.



Towards this end, local industries, the agricultural sector, labor and civil society offer to be a responsible partner with government to achieve the common good and to maximize the benefits of a globalized economy. Local industries recognize the need to make themselves globally competitive. But in the aftermath of the 1997 Asian crisis, they need temporary relief from the flood of imports so that they could have confidence to make further investments and adjustments. Government support is further needed to solve structural problems such as high power, transport and financing costs as well as to insure the effective enforcement of safety nets, anti-smuggling measures and to modernize its own bureaucracy.

But time is running out. By January 1, 2003, under EO 234, tariffs will further be slashed to 0-5% for goods coming from AFTA countries. For goods coming from non-AFTA countries, EO 334 further unilaterally reduces the tariff band to 0-5% by 2004. Immediate and decisive action is needed to avert an economic and political disaster.

Hence, we call upon the Government to:

- **Immediately renegotiate with AFTA countries for the postponement or suspension of tariff reductions;**

- **Return MFN tariff rates to 2001 levels for selected products;**

- **Impose an immediate moratorium on further tariff reductions (MFN and AFTA rates) pending the review of Philippine tariff policy in order to enhance our productive capacity;**

- **Immediately strengthen safety nets - allocate adequate funds, review and initiate amendments to the safeguard measures and anti-dumping laws and its implementing rules and regulations to strengthen their implementation;**

- **Institutionalize the involvement of industries, agriculture and labor in the formulation of trade policy and the negotiation of trade commitments; and**

- **Create a Trade Representative Office with tripartite representation under the Office of the President to immediately conduct a review of prior commitments and to formulate a new long-term strategy in trade, to negotiate all international commitments and to insure market access for Philippine products.**

Fair Trade Alliance (FTA)

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War talk

EDITORIAL

CLOSE on the heels of "neutralizing" the Abu Sayyaf, the Macapagal administration has announced an escalation of the "all-out" war on communist guerrillas.

It is significant that President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the stepped-up campaign against the New People's Army at the mass oath-taking on Monday of newly elected barangay officials in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. The administration has been encouraged by the barangay election results which, according to its interpretation, showed it gaining popular support in the countryside.

Be that as it may, the government is now at "war" on at least three fronts: against organized crime, the remnants of the Abu Sayyaf and the communists. These campaigns should be seen in the context of the President' s effort to build a "strong Republic."

Although the Armed Forces of the Philippines has enhanced its fighting capability in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf—after having gained access to advanced military technology during the Balikatan exercises and experience from joint operations with American forces—the government's military resources remain thin. As such, its capacity to fight simultaneously on three fronts is seriously in doubt. Military history is replete with lessons of disasters growing out of fighting on two fronts, such as Hilter's war on both the Western front and the Eastern front (Operations Barbarossa in Russia) during World War II. The President risks stretching the government's military resources too thin, resulting in a prolonged stalemate and even a dissipation of resources.

The communist insurgency has been on a low boil for some time, overshadowed by the Estrada administration's more dramatic war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and then the Macapagal administration's US-aided campaign against the Abu Sayyaf. With the threat of the Abu Sayyaf simmering down, the AFP is now shifting its forces in Mindanao to other parts of the country where NPA activity has been reported to be on the rise.

The government is stepping up the war against the NPA as part of the battle against terrorism. Ms Macapagal labels all armed rebellions as "terrorism," without differentiating as to whether they are driven by pure banditry or ideology. In the meantime, the US government has placed the NPA under the broad category of terrorist organizations, although there's absolutely no link between the communist rebels and the al-Qaida terrorist network.

According to the AFP, the NPA's expansion and activities have reached an "alarming level." Barangays influenced by the NPA have increased from 445 in 1995 to 1,969 in 2001 and to 2,262 this year, military reports say. The NPA is estimated to have more than 11,000 members, compared to 6,000 in 1994, a figure that is still far below its peak of 25,000 in the mid-1980s.

If the government has escalated its war rhetoric against the NPA, the communists have responded in kind. Jose Ma. Sison, safe in his sanctuary in The Hague, has warned that the NPA would launch a campaign of economic sabotage by bombing production installations, including power plants and lines.

The NPA can carry out this threat, but it won't help the poor, its natural constituency, if the economy is crippled by the guerrilla's scorched-earth strategy. The NPA has carried out criminal activities that are as nefarious as those of kidnap-for-ransom gangs by exacting illegal taxation on business enterprises. It has to resort to this to keep itself alive, after having lost its ideological moorings following the collapse of international communism.

Both the government and the NPA are guilty of projecting their military capability beyond what each can sustain in a war of attrition. The government has not exercised effectively its most potent option to weaken the communists: the revival of the suspended peace talks with the National Democratic Front. On other hand, the close security cooperation between the Philippines and the US has been used by the NDF to fan nationalist issues against the government.

Sison's war-like response does not improve the NPA's waning prospects of ever winning the revolution. But the government cannot build a strong Republic through big words, either. It has to husband its resources and blend military action with negotiations.

The old and the new police forces compared

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT is the difference between the policemen of today and the policemen of yesteryears? Why was the older police force more effective than the present one? Why was the crime rate low then? Why were the criminals afraid of the police then but not today? Was it because the police forces then were under the control of the mayors? Or is it because the population now is bigger and the policemen-population ratio lower? Or is it because poverty is much worse now and desperate persons are forced to commit crime to survive? Do leadership and discipline in the police force have something to do with it?

These issues were not directly discussed at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila forum but hints of the answers surfaced indirectly in the discussions during and after the forum. PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane had brought all his top generals to the forum, among them replacements for the seven PNP top officials sacked by Interior Secretary Joey Lina. With Ebdane were Director Ricardo de Leon (Operations), Director Lucas Managuelod for (Investigation and Detective Management), and Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Jose Gutierrez, Rolando Sacramento, and Pedro Bulaong, chiefs of the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western police districts, respectively.

In the audience were two outstanding, grizzled veterans of the old school: former Manila Mayor, NBI Director, and Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim, and former Col. Felicisimo Lazaro. Both started as patrolmen and rose through the ranks of the police force. Lim became chief and Lazaro deputy chief of the Manila Police, indisputably the best police force during their time, which was the reason it was called "Manila's Finest." Their exploits were legendary, and criminals quaked in their shoes when they learned that Lim or Lazaro were after them. Needless to say, like the Canadian Mounties, they always got their men.

Lim said that during their time, policemen killed in line of duty were always buried with honors, their families taken care of. Moreover, cop killers never lived more than a week after the killing. The whole police force was told to drop everything and get the killer dead or alive. Often, the killer was buried ahead of the policeman, Lim said.

In contrast, today's policeman seems not to be made of the same stern stuff. Because NPA Sparrow Units now shoot uniformed policemen, Lim said, some have shed their uniforms and wear plain clothes. That is why we see so few uniformed policemen although the PNP is trying to show police presence to deter criminals. Because of this fear, the foot patrol has been abolished.

Today's policemen do not know how to investigate crime, Lim said. They go to the scene of the crime and they do not know what to do. Unlike before when the Detective Bureau was composed of veterans, today's crime investigators are not trained to do their job, Lim said. The police officers agreed that the newer crops of policemen do not have enough training.

Which made Lazaro—who happened to be president of the retired policemen's association—wonder out loud why the older policemen who retired before 1991 get only a little more than P3,000 in monthly pension while those who retired after 1991 get P11,000. Unfortunately, Ebdane had already left when Lazaro asked that question so it was left hanging. But it turned out that a law was passed in 1991 increasing police pensions and it applied to all retired police personnel, including those who retired before 1991. De Leon promised to look into it.

Outside, after the forum, a couple whose lots were forcibly taken over by a squatting syndicate in Quezon City, was waiting to ask the police officials for help. *(See yesterday's column.)* And here, the difference between the policemen of the old school and the present one surfaced. The older policemen were ready to do their job and help even if they got killed doing it. The younger policemen would rather duck their duties. Instead of looking for ways to enforce law and order, they look for excuses for not doing it. You have to go to this or that office, they told the couple, you have to prove ownership, we have to follow the law, we don't want to be sued by the squatters, etc, etc. Where there's a will there's a way, but in the case of the police, when there's no will, then no way is good enough. They're afraid to be sued while doing their duty.

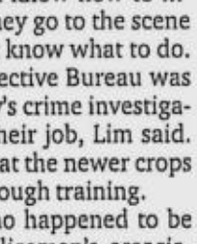
Isn't it the duty of the police to prevent, on the spot, the commission of a crime? The squatters were in the process of committing a crime by taking over lots that didn't belong to them. They were constructing shanties without building permits, another crime. And according to our laws—when they were still being enforced—constructions without building permits, even those owned by legitimate lot owners, can be demolished summarily. But present-day policemen and other government officials would rather have formal hearings with lawyers and documents a week or two later rather than prevent a crime now.

Something like white robbery is taking place. The police tell the victim: You have to prove that what they're taking is yours. Then they tell the victim and the robbers: Go to our headquarters a week from now with your lawyers and documents and we'll hold a formal hearing.

In the case of the squatting, such delays enable more squatters to put their shanties and use that stupid Lina Law to demand relocation and the payment of "disturbance fees" before they leave. That will probably take five or 10 years—since it usually takes courts that long to decide even simple ejectment cases.

Q & A

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

SOMEONE asks in the e-mail if I have any personal animosity toward Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. I seem to have been exceptionally critical of her. Isn't she capable of doing any good? Why do I insist that she not run in 2004? Surely people who are qualified to run have every right, and duty, to do so?

Good questions. No, I have no personal animosity toward GMA. I met her way back, and have no problems with her as a person. Her greatest asset, as I said in a column before she became president, shortly after she threw a lunch for the INQUIRER and a couple of other newspapers, is her smile, which can light up a room more brightly than a 500-watt lamp. Her greatest liability, as I said in the same column, is her frown, which can darken a room more pitilessly than a blackout on a windswept night.

I have nothing against her personally, I have everything against the positions—or lack of positions—that she takes. I respected her when she became the spokesperson in the Senate for GATT in 1995 (though Blas Ople was officially the sponsor of the bill calling for its ratification): If she believed firmly in its virtues, fine. That made her a principled adversary.

I did not feel the same way when she became a nonentity in the fight against Erap. She was in the best position to provide the critical force, the moral center, from within the government to stop Erap. And she would not do so. Contrast that with the way Teofisto Guingona came out to oppose her in her efforts to turn back the hands of time. That of course entails risks and consequences. If you lose, as Guingona did, you could be out of power. Though that "loss" is clearly arguable. What you lose in power, you win in the respect and gratefulness of your people. There is no greater power on earth.

It's called character. It was clear to me then that that concept was alien—indeed a foreign policy—to GMA.

She had a chance to make *bawi* after becoming president. Simply by doing precisely what she asked the rest of the world to do: stop politicking, think of the nation first, make the ultimate sacrifices for the nation. That would have been the time for her to say she wasn't running again, because all she wanted to do was put the country in order. She did the opposite. She showed the world she craved a second term, this time as an elected one. And so unleashed a world that would be the very opposite of what she called for. One where people would be politicking at every turn (everyone is campaigning this early in the day), where they would think of themselves first before the nation (look what's happening in the Senate), where they would, as the joke goes, shout "Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!" and kick the Japanese out of the sinking boat.

That holds the key to the question about GMA's capacity to do good. I have no doubt she has the capacity to do good, but she will always have to choose between doing what is popular and what is good. If the popular coincides with what is good, fine. If it does not, not very fine. She will choose what is popular over what is good. Or more bluntly, she will choose what is likely to win votes over what is likely to benefit the nation. That is what her wanting to run again means.

I do think, for example, that she is serious in trying to revive the economy, keep prices down, and make things better for the poor. At the very least because not doing so will cost her votes. But there is where her ambitions get in the way. Look at the case of tax collections. The BIR has the worst record of collections today—ironically after she singled out Rene Bañez in her first Sona as embodying the dynamism of her administration—and the reason for it is rampant tax evasion. As several letter writers have pointed out over the past days, the country's tax system remains regressive in the extreme, the poor paying more than the rich. If the government can only collect half of what is due it from the rich, it would wipe out the budget deficit overnight.

But you have a President who wants a second term, and you have to ask: Will she hound people like Lucio Tan? Will she round up all the tax cheats who are potential contributors to her campaign kitty, if they are not so already? Will she round up the white-collared criminals (and not just the shoeless ones) who can always throw the billions they owe the government behind another presidential hopeful who would be sympathetic to their cause?

GMA is not incapable of doing good, but with her desperately wanting to be president again, only when it will win votes, or not cost them. Unfortunately in this country, what is good and what wins votes rarely go together. What is good is keeping the country proud and free. What wins votes, as Jovito Salonga, who led the Senate in kicking out the US bases, discovered in 1992, is being the sidekick and comic relief of G.I. Joe. What is good is voting for candidates with a track record of honesty, integrity and industry. What wins votes are movie stars and show biz. What is good is fulfilling the dreams of Edsa. What wins votes is sleeping with the enemy.

Look how GMA has chosen since she took over Erap.

I have no beef with GMA personally. She says today that she will not run at all, that she will only do everything in her power to arrest the decline of this country, to stop its best and brightest from the leaving it out of frustration and disgust, that she will not allow herself to be put in a position where she will fear others or be beholden to them, and this very minute she can count on my undying support. Thomas More, in Robert Bolt's "A Man for All Seasons," did say to Henry, "I am your faithful and loyal servant, but God's first." I am more a doubting Thomas than a Thomas More, but what can I say?

I'll drink to it.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.net

Subtlety won't work

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SEN. John Osmeña was quoted as saying that recent Palace moves to cover up and defend former President Ramos' role in the IPP issue prompted him to refuse to give up the committee on government corporations and public enterprises. He vowed to pursue the investigation of this issue, beginning with a summons to Ramos' "cronies."

Osmeña's declaration is bound to trigger a new crisis in the Senate which has lately calmed down after resolving the validity of the June 3 journal. Recall that it was his perception that the majority coalition was trying to protect Ramos in the IPP issue that made him jump to the opposition, causing a politically costly two month-impasse in the chamber.

* * *

Since the administration coalition regained control of the Senate, Osmeña has had to give up the two powerful committees that his longtime ally, Senate President Franklin Drilon, had given him—energy and finance—but not his third committee, which is government corporations and public enterprises. But his plan to run after FVR is bound to be blocked by FVR's staunch allies, led by Senators Renato Cayetano and Robert Barbers, who would doubtless cite Osmeña's defection to the minority last June 3 as the source of all the majority's troubles. I imagine that the first thing these Lakas stalwarts would do is object to his keeping the chairmanship of the committee. But Osmeña is expected to fight tooth and nail to keep it, invoking a Senate practice dating to the time of Senate President Marcelo Fernan which allows minority senators to chair at least one committee each.

* * *

During Fernan's tenure in former President Estrada's time, minority Sen. Rene Cayetano got to chair the justice committee. In the Senate led by Drilon after July 2001, the minority got to keep 10 committee chairmanship. For instance, Sen. Edgardo Angara got the committee on electoral reforms and constitutional amendments, while Sen. Teresa Oreta got government reorganization and civil service. But the issue of Osmeña's chairing government corporations and public enterprises could be crucial in the administration's handling of the IPP issue, including the question of whether or not the government would honor its obligations to IPPs. Hence, his committee could be a new political battleground.

* * *

In the race to fill the post of ombudsman, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo seems to have the inside track. But there seems to be a resistance from some quarters to his appointment, as this would reinforce the perception that the Villaraza law office, from which Marcelo sprang, is getting all the sensitive offices. Aside from Marcelo, that law office produced Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio and Presidential Legal Adviser Avelino "Nonong" Cruz. Another partner, Pancho Villaraza, continues to act as the private lawyer of the First Couple.

I agree with those who feel Marcelo ought to be kept in his current post. While he conceivably will remain independent and upright as ombudsman's post, the perception that he is protecting the President's interests will persist. Besides, he is doing well in his present job.

* * *

There are conflicting opinions about the way President Macapagal is handling the presentation of criminals to the public through the media. Some people think she is overdoing the "photo-op" bit in order to advance her political agenda for 2004 and boost her lackluster survey ratings. Others feel, however, that publicizing the arrests is one sure way to gain public support for the campaign against lawless elements that she promised in her recent State of the Nation Address. Among those cheering the strong-arm tactics is the business community, which believes it's time criminality and corruption are vigorously addressed. Among the critics are human rights advocates.

* * *

I submit that the well-publicized crackdown, where the President parades criminals before the media right in the Palace, is necessary in our culture. Subtlety is not likely to produce the same deterrent results. With the *masa*, the main target for votes as well as of the message that crime does not pay, subtlety won't work. But definitely such a campaign is fraught with danger, among them the tendency of the President's underlings to grandstand and please her with "results," at the expense of thorough sleuthing and careful spade work.

Here NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco seems to be throwing away his one and a half years of solid achievements by being too eager to score "*pogi* points." In the process he's beginning to appear like the Super-Sipsip who's getting GMA into trouble. In the last analysis there's no substitute for slow-but-sure moves. By the way, Wycoco should hide his flair for sartorial elegance. People are starting to feel that he's too careful about his looks when he should be more careful with his work.

* * *

One of my favorite apostolates is helping troubled marriages. One of the best ways to save such marriages is the Retrouvaille Philippines weekend program, wherein the spouses are brought into a fruitful encounter and dialogue by well-known marriage counselors and volunteers, led by Columban Fr. Dave Clay. Many marriages have already been saved in this way and even spouses who had already separated have rediscovered a new and loving relationship. This Friday, Aug. 9, up to Sunday, Aug. 11, Retrouvaille will conduct another weekend program at the Convent of the Merciful Sisters on SVD Road, Barangay San Jose, Tagaytay City. For more information and reservations, call Fr. Clay at 523-3361 or 525-0308 or 0918-9020511, or Tom and Ruby del Castillo at 931-8413 and 932-3750.

Was Juan Diego for real?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

GUADALUPE has been my favorite Marian apparition story since we first staged it for our family's Christmas Eve pageant. The outline alone is beguiling: Our Lady appears before a poor, humble Indian peasant, telling him she wants a church built in her honor atop Tepeyac Hill outside Mexico City. Juan Diego, the Virgin's messenger, dutifully brings Our Lady's orders to the archbishop but is mocked and rudely turned away. Juan Diego returns again and again, after each visitation by Our Lady. Finally, he requests her to give him a sign to prove to the authorities that he is indeed the Virgin's mediator.

So one day, Juan Diego visits the archbishop, falls on his knees and opens his rough woven cloak. Out fall roses, unseasonal for that time of year. But it's what's imprinted on the cloak that convinces the Archbishop Juan Diego is indeed speaking in the name of Our Lady. For before him is the image of Our Lady, a woman carrying the features of Mexico's combined Indian and Spanish heritage, before a backdrop painted in brilliant hues of blue and gold. The archbishop, and later the Church itself, sees this as a sign that Mexico has indeed been honored by a visit from the Lord's mother.

About 500 years after the visitations in 1531, Pope John Paul II visited Mexico last week and canonized Juan Diego, making him the first indigenous saint of the Americas.

The event was observed by way of an "unorthodox and colorful Mass" that was described as "part Catholic ritual, part ancient Indian religious celebration." However overdue, Juan Diego's elevation to sainthood was taken to heart by Mexicans, who are all, in one way or another, devotees of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A Mexican immigrant advocate explains: "La Virgen de Guadalupe is the heart of the Mexican identity. Her *mestizo* face sums up the nation."

* * *

AND YET, writes Albor Ruiz, a columnist for the New York Daily News, "the public debate in Mexico about Juan Diego's existence, which has raged on and off for years, (has taken) on the intensity of a national obsession."

"Was the new saint even real?" asks Ruiz.

Majority of Mexicans, acknowledges Ruiz, believe in the authenticity of the Guadalupe apparition, insisting that of course Juan Diego, the Aztec Indian chosen from out of the millions of Mexico's impoverished Indians, was a real, historic person.

On the other side of the debate, though, are "historians and even some clergy who believe the humble image of the young Indian was just a marketing tool the Church designed to sell the colonizers' faith to the indigenous population."

To understand why such a "marketing tool" was even necessary, one must look back to the beginnings of Christianity and colonization in Mexico, attended by treachery and bloodshed, the wholesale massacre of the indigenous population, with the ruling and priestly classes targeted for destruction. Historians say conversions to Christianity in Mexico never really took off until after the propagation of the Guadalupe devotion, with the Church promoting devotion to a *mestizo* Virgin and embracing an Indian saint.

* * *

THE HISTORICAL reality of Juan Diego, writes Ruiz, was only one of several controversies stirred by the Pope's visit.

Just before leaving Mexico, Pope John Paul II beatified Juan Bautista and Jacinto de los Angeles, two Zapotec Indians better known as the "Martyrs of Cajonos" after their home village. The two, says Ruiz, were lynched by their own people in 1700 for "informing authorities an indigenous pagan religious celebration was taking place." As a result, 15 Indians were tortured and dismembered "as punishment for the sin of idolatry."

The beatification of the "martyrs," protested a cultural critic, was equivalent to "a justification for snitching."

More than a few Mexican Indians agree, writes Ruiz, seeing the beatification of Bautista and De los Angeles as an insult. "Even today, Mexican Indians are the poorest of the poor in their own country," notes Ruiz. "The push by the Church to solidify the faith among the indigenous population clearly has its downside."

And yet, say other advocates of Mexico's Indian population, Our Lady of Guadalupe and Juan Diego in fact served to inspire Indians in the dispiriting years soon after the Spanish conquest.

* * *

"UNTIL the Virgin came," observes Joel Magallan, the executive director of Asociacion Tepeyac, a Mexican immigrant advocacy group, "the natives were letting themselves die little by little. But (Our Lady) announced that the oppressed and marginalized should have a place in society." The choice of Juan Diego was no doubt an inspired one, not just for "marketing" purposes, but certainly for cultural reasons, sending the message that Indians, too, were important to the Christian God.

If the Guadalupe devotion was indeed created by way of a belated *mea culpa* for Christianity's gory beginnings and the excesses of the conquistadors and friars in Mexico, it was, in the mysterious workings of the faith, also a marvelous morale booster for the descendants of colonization's victims.

The question now is: Would Juan Diego, undoubtedly the patron saint of indigenous peoples, perform his own miracle of protecting the tenuous existence of the world's indigenous communities? Guardians of much of the world's threatened environments, the rapidly thinning forest cover, endangered coastlines, river basins and mangroves, the tribal folks might well be the custodians of our collective future. Juan Diego is our patron saint, too.

Bright little spots

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

I'VE been eavesdropping these past several weeks on consultations, breakfast and lunch meetings and weekend round-table discussions of concerned individuals from NGOs, academic institutions, church groups, the private sector. The topics of concern were teachers and education. The question asked: What could we do—individually and institutionally—to save, improve and enrich the education system, particularly the public schools and the teachers?

I am not yet at liberty to present the grand scheme that is being hatched (there will be a time for that when the media will be called upon in a big way), but I can at least say now that while listening to all the sharing, presentations and plans, I sensed a warm feeling swelling inside me.

Hope. Maybe I can call it hope. How else would I call it?

It is a feeling that is the opposite of what you get when you watch the senators of this republic bicker, brag and bitch. It is a feeling that tells you "people power" is not an empty, noisy boast after all. Because, yes Virginia (or should I say now, Eugenia?), like you, there are still people who take the words and their meaning to heart and relentlessly pursue a vision for their fellow Filipinos. They do not seek the cameras and the limelight, they do not shout in the streets, they only quietly do their part in small and big ways—and very efficiently too. No *bida*, no charismatic leaders, no slogans. Only hard work and joyful, effective sharing of time, talent and treasure.

I am referring to the quiet but significant efforts of institutions and individuals who are doing something in the area of education and are reaching out to those who are in need—the impoverished teachers, students and schools who, on their own, cannot perform miracles or push for something better.

Here's what's going on at the other end of Edsa.

Last Sunday's Inquirer Magazine featured La Salle Greenhills' Adult Night High School (ANHS) which was established by the La Salle Brothers in 1978 to provide formal and non-formal education for the poor. It is the only night high school in the entire country to pass the stiff accreditation of the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools Colleges and Universities. For the poor students, many of whom work during the day, La Salle uses the same first-class facilities and curriculum of the day classes of the, um, rich kids. Yes, when you do something for the poor, it should not be an afterthought but the best.

La Salle also has its Operation Big Brother (OBB) which has targeted selected high schools in Metro Manila where it could implement a "Lasallian private-school quality education" for selected students. OBB created pilot sections in three highs schools—V. Mapa, Arellano and G. Perfecto High School—where the 480 selected students were placed in an enriched curriculum derived from La Sallian High Schools and were provided all the textbooks and school supplies.

Sixty teachers from these schools will receive scholarships for a master's degree at the De La Salle University.

The Jesuit-run Ateneo de Manila University has Pathways to Higher Education, an innovative endeavor of Ateneo and Ford Foundation that gives poor students access to education while providing wholistic formation to both the students and their families. Parents are also included in livelihood programs. Pathways designs modular curriculum for the working students to enable them to complete their education.

The Ateneo Center for Educational Development (ACED) provides a systematic, high impact and visible center of support for public elementary and secondary school system in the Philippines. One of its offerings is Project SSPEEd or Sectoral Support for Public Elementary Education, a three-year project with the education department and the local school boards. SSPEEd concentrates on four areas of assistance: pupil performance (books, school supplies, mini-libraries, feeding), teacher competence (training and teaching materials), physical facilities (repair and facilities, toilets, etc.) and supervisory and management capability (training, equipment).

Assumption College has the Mother Eugenie Institute (MEI) which provides a formation program for their own teachers. Assumption hopes to share this with the public schools. Assumption, by the way, is already implementing its "twinning" program with public schools in Iloilo and Antique. It is a "you-learn-from-us-we-learn-from-you" experience.

The University of the Philippines College of Education has its teacher training program that is open to all.

Not to be outdone is Couples for Christ (CFC), which has not only gone into housing for the poor but has also made inroads into education for those who have less in life. CFC is really going fast and "walking their talking."

It's so heartwarming to listen to those who are trying to bring light to the dark corners in this country. I am sure there are many more out there, little efforts to brighten up forgotten spots. I was amazed and inspired when I learned about all these while eavesdropping for several weeks. Now, how to give these even greater force, sharper focus—and more funds. And to multiply them a hundredfold.

* * *

To those special few who donated coloring books, crayons and school supplies to the nipa-nut schools the Aetas built for their young in Tarlac, thank you very much. Send me your e-mail address and I will send you the digital photos that show their great joy and the great mountain that is their home.

* * *

Send feedback to ceresp d@info.com.ph

Infectious

YOUNG BLOOD

Jerry James M. de la Torre

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I MET Maybelle, a breast cancer patient, and she infected me! No, not with her ailment but with her awesome story of love and faith, humility and hope. With her words, my heart burst into flames; with her song, my heart was set ablaze. My life will never be the same again.

On the night of Feb. 16, 2002, I stood amidst the crowd of some 4,000 single men and women from the Philippines, Mongolia, Africa, US, Canada, Singapore and Australia who had gathered at an open field in Banilad, Dumaguete City, for the 9th Singles for Christ International Leaders Conference. A few steps behind me was a petite lady with a scarf on her head dangling down her back. A little while later, two other "sisters" (we address the ladies thus) approached her like a long lost friend and then prayed over her. It didn't occur to me that she was Maybelle, the next sharer.

She climbed the stage and spoke in fluent English, her words emotionally and powerfully charged. All of us were stunned with her confession: She's battling breast cancer.

For the first time, I saw and heard a story of a breast cancer patient from the person herself. It was riveting. She was not just an ordinary speaker or a cancer victim, she was one of our own. She was my sister in Singles for Christ and she had to fight such a disease in the prime of her youth.

She opened up her life to us with boldness and clarity of thought and without a trace of bitterness. Just like us, she had never imagined she would be stricken with cancer. Now she has to deal with doubts about her desirability in the eyes of men and fears of passing on the disease to her daughter and seeing her own child suffer her own fate. That is, of course, assuming that she'll bear a child. Chemotherapy is said to adversely affect one's fertility.

Rather curiously, God gave her a boyfriend five days after she underwent surgery. I think smart and healthy children for this couple will not be much of a miracle. With her disposition, I wouldn't be surprised if she gets healed completely.

For about a year now following her operation, she has had to go through routine checkups and treatment like chemotherapy, blood tests and CT scan. She feels like a pin cushion because of the constant pricks she gets during her frequent hospital visits. Her ordeal is undoubtedly physically, emotionally and financially draining.

But that night she stood onstage spiritually stronger than most of us in the audience. I found myself drawing strength from the cancer-stricken lady as I reflected upon the many challenges I had to overcome in my own life. Her words rang out forcefully: "I am not too sick to help! No one is neither too poor nor too small to act. Believe in the dream that God has given us."

While world-class athletes would normally slow down and ask that they be put on the injured list, Maybelle is so courageous in carrying on with her tasks as a missionary of the Singles for Christ, unmindful of her own pain. Despite her physical suffering, she's even more preoccupied with the other "cancer" which is worse than the one she has: the cancer of indifference to others in need. She is overflowing with love for others. Other speakers told me later that she serves as a household head of their maids at home. And she didn't even advertise herself as such. Amazing!

Toward the end of her short sharing, she exhorted the crowd to be strong in spreading the love of Christ and to claim things in faith. "There can be miracles if you believe," she sang out beautifully.

When I stretched out my arms along with the rest of the crowd to pray for her, I resolved that it wasn't going to be my last prayer for her. I will pray daily for her and those of us who are also afflicted, at one time or another, with the other forms of cancer, primarily that of indifference.

To you Maybelle, rest assured that your words and song will ring out loud just as they did that night. Your life of love and faith, humility and hope has set my heart on fire!

Jerry James M. de la Torre, 27, is a member of the Singles for Christ in the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija.

Home

Donna Rasalan Lampa

SINCE our house is about 28 kilometers away from the university where I study, I spend an average of three and a half hours daily commuting, four times a week. Because of this, I have developed the habit of watching people who ride public transportation with me. It kills time and prevents me from falling asleep. And it keeps me entertained—usually, that is.

One boring afternoon, I found myself in a jeepney that would take me out of the campus. I was observing the other passengers when five ragamuffins noisily got on board.

Out of curiosity, I studied the three girls and two boys, all of them thin and shabbily clothed. They were playing noisily inside the jeepney, until a man threatened to throw them out if they didn't shut up. So they did.

The man looked very pleased with himself, and I wondered if he had ever been with children before. I took it that he hadn't, because if he had, he would have known better than to scold any youngster for being boisterous. After all, childhood is about making noise and having fun.

After wasting a couple of minutes trying unsuccessfully to understand him, I gave up and got off. I took the MRT train and I was about to forget the kids when I heard the sound of two children playing. Unlike the street urchins, they looked healthy and were neatly dressed. They were even noisier than the kids in the jeepney, but nobody seemed to mind it.

My mind drifted back to the time when my English professor ranted about class bias. She told us that most educated people, despite their education, think poor people deserve to be poor because they are bums, but the truth is that they work their butts off even harder than the rich. She explained that those who have power and money (and those who pretend they do) have biases against the poor and that's one reason they don't succeed. I looked around once more and realized how right she was. The only difference between the kids in the train and the kids in the jeepney was their appearance. And that difference robbed the children in the jeepney of their right to be what they were: noisy, carefree kids.

I was so stunned by this realization that I don't even remember how I got inside a bus. I thought of those street kids and felt sorry for them. They were deprived of their right to act like kids because they were poor, and they could not do anything about it.

I thought about it some more and ended up being more sorry for myself for not doing anything. I didn't correct that biased man, because people might think I was one of them if I did. I didn't want have any part of their pain and suffering.

That moment I made a deal with God that I would do something about my cowardliness if He would forgive me.

It was already dark when I reached our house. I wondered why I was still feeling lost somewhat. It felt like one of those very long and tiring days.

Donna Rasalan Lampa, 18, is a junior journalism student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

One-two punch for cheaper medicines

THE GENERIC Association of the Philippines (GAP) lauds the intention of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit to lower the cost of medicines. They, as well as columnist Neal Cruz, are correct in saying that the prices of medicines being sold in the country are high although they have different views about how to make the prices affordable.

GAP believes that greed, incoherent government policies and the absence of pricing regulation largely contributed to this social malady.

Parallel importation of branded or generic medicines will not solve the problem of high prices. The multinational and other foreign companies are happy that the government is buying medicines from their sister companies abroad, especially those whose highly priced brands are directly or indirectly being promoted by the Presyong Tama and the GMA 50 program. We do not believe that the companies producing these highly priced brands in the Philippines can be intimidated to bring down their prices by threatening them with parallel importation of cheaper dugs from India. They will be happy with our money in their left pocket, as government becomes a new market for their Indian products. The importation will induce poor Filipino patients to patronize their highly priced branded medicines being sold in the Philippines. Since their low priced counterparts are not available in the commercial market, the spill-over of prescriptions for these brands from the government hospitals will create more demand for the highly priced counterparts, thereby increasing their control of the P60-billion pharmaceutical market.

We agree with Roxas that the Philippines should override patents and have open access to cheaper drugs to address public health issues. We also agree with Cruz that the only way to do this is through the efforts of the Filipino companies which have been providing the government with low priced medicines even before the advent of the Generics Law. There are more than enough Filipino companies that are capable of producing these patented medicines if the government would just authorize them to do so. This is provided for anyway by the Ministerial Declaration of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

We agree with the statement of the Health Alliance for Democracy that "medicines are expensive because successive governments have never been interested in the development of a Filipino drug industry." It is probably the reason the DOH and DTI opted to use medicines from India for their Presyong Tama and the GMA 50 program, instead of choosing those that are being produced by Filipino companies. What is ironic is that the Filipino companies have proven to be the only ally of government in addressing the issue of high prices of medicines.

It is not easy to solve the problem of high prices of medicines for it will have to take an enormous amount of political will on the part of the government to achieve this. But the solution is simple, its like a one-two punch: impose a price ceiling on the prices of medicines as provided for by the Price Act, and ensure that Filipino companies produce all patented and out of patent medicines that the country needs. This is the better way of doing it!

—EDWIN P. SANTIAGO, president Generic Association of the Phils., Suite 402, Cityland 10 Tower 2, H.V. dela Costa St., Makati City

Robin Hood or Sheriff of Nottingham?

RAUL J. Palabrica's defense of his *compañero* Bobby Tañada exposes his gross misunderstanding of the electricity industry, his low opinion of the opposers of Meralco's rate hike petitions, and a most inappropriate comparison of Tañada to Robin Hood.

Electricity distribution and supply is the only industry where the customer provides the working capital, makes deposits on the meters and implements for providing him the service, guarantees utility debts with the fixed rates that he pays, and pays a fixed return on assets that he has financed with his rate payments and deposits.

Every cost item, plus the guaranteed return on such costs, are borne by the customers. This includes the lawyer's fees, whether on a "success basis or hourly rate schedule," which according to Palabrica Meralco will pay Tañada. By the way, this fee cannot be kept confidential as it will find its way to the customer's rate payments, which must be itemized under rate unbundling.

Belittling the opposition to the electricity rates, Palabrica said they have never agreed to adjustments in the charges of utilities, which are "simply unrealistic" and may not even be accepted by countries that operate under a welfare state.

For his information, utilities have been charging us the fixed basic rates and the automatic adjustments. These used to be the FPCA and CERA, until these were recently consolidated under the PPA, which in some months were over three times more than the basic rate. Ours was the second highest power rate in Asia, next only to Japan's, until President Macapagal-Arroyo put some components of the PPA on hold. Unfortunately, that is a temporary reprieve, not a permanent solution. The deferred costs will comeback to haunt future generations.

The 1994 order of the Energy Regulatory Board being invoked by Meralco was overturned by the ERB in 1998. Although successfully appealed by Meralco to the Court of Appeals, the ERB through the Office of the Solicitor General has appealed the CA ruling to the Supreme Court. It is clear that the prevailing ruling of the ERB is the order of February 1998, now pending before the Supreme Court. The present Enegry Regulatory Commission intends to let its 1998 ruling lapse, and allow Meralco to benefit fully from the 1994 ruling, to the prejudice of some 3.8 million consumers.

In the 1994 order, Meralco claimed an RORB of 11 percent

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

with an P0.184 pkwh rate increase. The 1998 order, based on a 1997 audit report of the Commission on Audit, said that Meralco collected an RORB of 32 percent based on historical value of its assets, or 21 percent based on appraised value. The RORB cap is 12 percent.

It is sad that Palabrica confuses the present overlords of Meralco with the over three million Meralco customers who are hardly the "rich" that Palabrica's Robin Hood may steal from. They are in fact the poor made poorer by Meralco's excessive power rates.

The success of Tañada will see the rich soaking the poor. Rather than being the Robin Hood of the poor, he might in fact become an enforcer of the tax collector of the notorious Sheriff of Nottingham.

—PETE ILAGAN, president, National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms Inc., (Nasecore), Unit 616 Roxas Seafront Garden Townhomes, Roxas Blvd. cor. Ortigas St., Pasay City

Supreme Court shouldn't be a dump for retirees

I WAS bothered when I read in your paper that Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and Makati Business Club chairman Ricardo Romulo are recommending retired Ombudsman Aniano Desierto for appointment ot the Supreme Court. Do they honestly believe Desierto deserves to be there? And why is Romulo recommending Desierto? Is that not unethical, to say the least, considering that he runs one of the bigger law firms in the country, Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & de los Angeles?

I believe the Supreme Court should not be the dumping ground for retirees like Desierto. The Filipino people deserve persons "of proven competence, integrity, probity and independence" (Section 7 (3), Article VIII, 1987 Constitution). Desierto definitely does not measure up to this constitutional yardstick.

The Court of Appeals is the best hunting ground for a candidate.

If the Macapagal administration is anxious to reward Desierto for his role in ousting Joseph Estrada as president, then it should give him a directorship in the United Coconut Planters Bank or Pagcor where he can do less damage. But never a seat at the Supreme Court!

—EFREN H. MERCADO, Mercado Compound, Mataas na Lupa, Lipa City

Legal procedure in clearing confessed killer

AS a lawyer I was deeply disturbed by the peremptory "exculpation" by no less than the President, confirming the premature pronouncement of her lawyer-husband, of Sonny Parsons in the Marikina slaying incident.

Since she is the chief enforcer of the laws of the land, I expected the President to enforce the law on homicide as contained in the Revised Penal Code. Needless to say, the correct legal procedure must be observed if the rule of law is to prevail and thrive our country.

The Marikina City police was legally correct, and was duty-bound to announce that charges of homicide would be filed against Parsons. Under our legal system if a person is killed and the perpetrator admits the killing, the state or the people must file a case against the perpetrator because in legal theory it is an offense against the peace of the state or the people, where sovereignty resides, and therefore considered a public crime. This explains why criminal cases are titled "People of the Philippines vs. John Doe."

Whatever justifying circumstance Parsons cites, whether self-defense or defense of property under Article 11 of the Revised Penal Code, to avoid any liability, this must be established before a competent court during trial. In criminal law this is called "confession and avoidance." The accused admits that indeed he killed the person who is the subject of the case, but at the same time justifies the killing under the circumstances. The trial judge has to evaluate the evidence presented by the accused justifying the killing. Only after the judge is satisfied that the requirements under the law have been complied with can he rule that the accused is not criminally liable for the killing. The usual procedure, or SOP, if you will, has to be observed. There cannot be any short cut at all.

It is for the same reasons I disagree with the observations of lawyer Simeon Madrid Magdamit in his letter last Aug. 2, wherein he justified the actions taken by Parsons even before he is brought to trial because of the doctrine of "citizen's arrest" under Section 5, Rule 13 of the Amended Rules of Court.

The law, both substantive and procedural, requires that reasonable force should be used in the defense of life or property, and there should be unlawful aggression or an attack on the person owning the property or entrusted with the property taken. These facts must be proven in court. These cannot be assumed from sworn statements, police reports or media reports. Only a competent court can say so. Indeed, it would be putting the cart before the horse, so to speak, if this were allowed.

—MANUEL T. CHAN, Prado Tuy & Chan, Suite 308, Verde Oro Bldg., 535 Commonwealth Ave., QC

Shoddy TV news productions

NEWS programs on the television have the bad habit of using old video clips without telling when they were actually taken.

This practice confuses the viewers. What is shown is not pertinent to what the TV host is reporting.

There are times when the newscaster is announcing a sad news but the accompanying film clip shows everybody looking happy and unperturbed. The viewers thus get the impression that everything is okay, which is contrary to the content of the report.

We have had enough of this callousness and don't-give-a-damn attitude. No wonder, the public does not know anymore what to believe. If the objective is to add some flavor to the news report, the stations should at least put a date on the film clip used if there is a real need to show the character's face.

What is even worse is reporting a public official's wrongdoing while he is shown laughing in a film taken in better times.

What kind of example are we showing to our people? That even TV news is only a joke?

Let's not be surprised anymore that our people don't take things seriously. Let our TV stations learn responsible reporting like the foreign news shown on cable TV. Film clips from their files are dated.

This unfair and untruthful practice must be regulated and corrected.

—MANUEL L. MORATO, Quezon City

Absence of rally permit can't justify violence

WESTERN Police District Director Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong was quoted as saying that the protesters during US Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit last Friday did not have permits and "never in history had they applied for a permit."

He missed the point entirely. Is he saying that something as ministerial and technical as an inability to obtain permits warranted the PNPs' violent dispersal of the rallies?

For Bulaong's clarification, Akbayan did try to secure a permit, but since the process was cumbersome it decided to go ahead with its protest action. Akbayan was hoping that negotiations with police forces would result in letting it hold its rally without any untoward incident occurring.

Instead, dozens of Akbayan's own members were injured last Friday and no matter how you look at it, the absence of a permit does not justify the violence. The highest law of the land states the principle quite clearly—no law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech and expression.

When Bulaong said the police would allow protesters to "express their sentiments peacefully at the designated areas and at the proper time," he was effectively limiting the options available for activists to express that right.

Such intolerant behavior invites further conflict. Experience has shown that at other times, police and demonstrators have always found a way around the "no permit, no rally" rule through negotiations. Whatever happened to civility?

Lest we forget, a petition which Akbayan filled is still pending with the Supreme Court. Akbayan questioned the validity of President Macapagal-Arroyo's suspension of the maximum tolerance policy during protest actions, which is implemented through the "no permit, no rally" rule.

Akbayan appeals to Bulaong not to trivialize last week's actions by reducing them to a question of whether the protesters had the necessary permit. Akbayan believes that sincere negotiations could have averted the dispersal, and maximum tolerance should have still prevailed.

—MARIE VICTA-LABAJO, secretary general, Akbayan (Citizens' Action Party), 14 Mapagkumbaba St., Sikatuna Village, QC

Crossfire

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

TWO Filipinas, Adelina Cunanan and Rebecca Ruga, were among those killed last Sunday when a Palestinian suicide bomber blew up a bus in northern Israel. On Monday, a Filipina was among those injured when gunmen opened fire on a Christian school mainly serving the children of foreign missionaries in Pakistan.

This is not the first time Filipinos have been caught in the crossfire of religious wars, but these recent incidents—where the victims were Christian and the assailants Muslim—could reinforce the prejudices people have here at home against Muslims.

It's important for us to reflect on what's happening, and understand what happens when hatred runs completely berserk, consuming both sides in a war of endless retribution.

On the surface, the Palestinian suicide bombers seem the more abominable, especially when you think of how even young boys and children are now being sent on such missions. But the Israelis have not been blameless either. The incident that provoked the latest suicide bombing was an attack last July 22, when an Israeli F-16 fighter plane dropped a one-ton bomb on a building to assassinate Salah Shehada, a leader of the militant Palestinian organization Hamas. The attack, done in the middle of the night, also killed 14 other people, including nine children.

It is tiring listening to both sides trying to justify their attacks and counterattacks, each side trying to surpass the other in their brutality. The suicide bombers have become younger, and include women. The Israeli military, on the other hand, have taken to demolishing the homes of the suicide bombers.

There are people, both in Palestine and Israel, who question the carnage, condemning the terrorism of the other side, as well as of their own compatriots. But these critical voices remain in the minority.

Lest we forget, we have our own little dirty war in Mindanao, where many Filipinos are also caught in the crossfire. Sr. Mary Grenough, an American Maryknoll sister (actually an American Pinay, having lived here and served Filipinos for more than 40 years) e-mailed me a statement from an international solidarity mission that she had joined. The mission, with 68 people from 10 countries, visited Zamboanga and Basilan from July 24 to 31.

Their statement cites numerous cases of human rights violations, including the case of the US soldier shooting Buyong Buyong Isnijal, an unarmed civilian, in Tuburan, Basilan. Our own government officials denied that it was an American who shot Isnijal, and insinuated that the victim was a member of the Abu Sayyaf.

The international team was kept under heavy surveillance by the military and police, yet dozens of people showed up to report harassment, indiscriminate arrests and detentions, injuries, deaths. The team visited prisons, where they found an inmate as young as 14 years old, accused of being a member of the Abu Sayyaf. One mother reported her 11-year-old child being abducted by Filipino soldiers and executed, again because of suspicions he was with the Abu Sayyaf. The team fears that with large financial rewards being offered by the military and the US government for information on rebels, false accusations will become more common.

Predictably, government officials have dismissed the solidarity mission as "leftist" and those incidents as "isolated." I wonder. One has to remember that in all wars, "isolated incidents" add up in the bloody arithmetic of hatred. Today's Abu Sayyaf were children in the 1980s and 1990s who suffered from the military operations. Each generation of Muslims in the Philippines hears more stories from their elders of how Muslims were persecuted, in the American colonial period, in the Marcos era, in the Erap era and now in the Macapagal-Balikatan era.

In a few years, we will have new rebels and bandits coming out of Basilan and Zamboanga, with stories of what happened during Balikatan 2002, no doubt embellished to highlight how the Muslims suffered. The Abu Sayyaf, hated even by Muslims as murderous bandits, would have been canonized, the notorious Abu Sabaya elevated to the status of a folk hero who resisted the Kano. Don't be surprised, too, if there are reports of Sabaya rising from the dead to fight the infidels.

We must not forget Mindanao has been swept into Bush's war of vengeance. With the entry of American troops, the conflict in Mindanao has shifted full gear into a military mode. Even with military assistance from the Americans, the government scurries around thinking of new taxes to fund next year's budget, bloated by increased allocations for the military and the Department of the Interior (read the police). Meanwhile, the budgets for agriculture, health and social services stagnate, with Muslim Mindanao sure to lag further behind in the years to come.

Bush and the American government thank our President and the Filipino people, for being such faithful lackeys, oops, I meant allies, in the war against "international terrorism." If the victims—in Afghanistan or the Philippines—have been mostly Muslim, mostly civilians, it is only because they were caught in the crossfire—collateral damage in the cold jargon of the US military.

It is tragic that Filipinos are caught in the crossfire in foreign lands, in other people's wars. But let us not forget, too, the tragedy of Filipinos caught in the crossfire of foreign wars, fought in our own land.

His way or no way

IF there's a clear sign the country isn't ready to accept the marvels of information technology fully, it's our abhorrence of networking.

The Filipino mentality that it's either his way or no way still pervades every sector of our society from the barangay to the national government. How else can one explain the 75 deaths related to the recent barangay and SK elections?

It would take the President, for instance, to order telecom companies to interconnect with each other. One doesn't have to be a Harvard graduate to know that interconnection will drive down phone costs and this would ripple through the economy to make it cost-efficient and internationally competitive.

Yet interconnection already mandated by President Fidel Ramos under EO 95 is more often circumvented than faithfully adhered to.

The same mentality pervades the issuance of identification cards by government offices. We could not help laughing, or else we would've been in tears, to read that the Bureau of Immigration still doesn't have an alien registration and identification system, let alone a tamper-proof ID card. It means the bureau has been helpless against international terrorists and some syndicates known to be responsible for faking immigration documents and conceivably smuggling aliens.

In fairness to bureau officials, however, they are victims of the same kind of mentality which prevents networking. It's the same in every government. Each office has to have its own ID card design, public bidding and supplier. The government must be spending enormous amounts for ID cards when it doesn't have to.

The truth is the Social Security System has the most secure ID system in the country today, equipped with Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) to detect fake identities that can issue every ID card required by every government office including a driver's license, TIN, voter's ID and others.

But it would probably take another executive order for government agencies to get their act together with regard to ID cards.

—FRANK WENCESLAO, 92 Mindanao Avenue, Q.C.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

AN ISRAELI policeman inspects the remains of a Palestinian suicide bomber who blew himself up after hitching a ride with an Israeli Arab security guard August 5 on the outskirts of the Israeli Arab city of Umm al-Fahm in northern Israel. The security guard, who told police he had stopped to give the suspected bomber a ride, was seriously injured in the blast which came less than two days after a Palestinian suicide bombing on a passenger bus in northern Israel which killed nine people.

GETTY IMAGES

30 Israel tanks raid Gaza Strip in sweep for bombers

GAZA—About 30 Israeli tanks firing heavy machine-guns raided the northern Gaza Strip on Wednesday in a sweep for militants and troops shot dead a Palestinian policeman, witnesses said.

The incursion and bloodshed underlined the obstacles that remain to peace despite the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian talks on Monday and the announcement of US meetings with Palestinians later this week in an attempt to end the violence.

The tanks swept into the fenced-in Gaza Strip under cover of darkness, entered the village of Beit Lahiya and moved to the outskirts of the Jabalya refugee camp, a stronghold of Palestinian militants, witnesses said.

They said Israeli forces faced only light resistance as they pushed two km into Palestinian-ruled territory and conducted house-to-house searches for arms and wanted men.

"We're under siege," Mohammed al-Masri, mayor of Beit Lahiya, said as tanks rumbled through his village.

By the time the Israelis started pulling out several hours later, a 29-year-old policeman lay dead from Israeli fire and two Palestinians were wounded, one critically with a gunshot to the head, hospital sources said.

The army said troops entered Beit Lahiya and arrested three wanted militants. It said the troops fired when they were shot at and later pulled out.

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip had been bracing for Israeli military action after a suicide bomber from the Islamic militant group Hamas killed nine people on an Israeli bus on Sunday.

Israel had threatened harsh retaliation against Hamas, which uses the Gaza Strip as a key base of operations. Helicopter gunships fired missiles on Monday at what the army said was a Palestinian arms factory in Gaza City.

That strike was the first on Gaza since an air raid on July 22 that killed Hamas's military commander, his deputy and 13 others, including nine children. The bombing drew international outrage and unleashed revenge attacks by Hamas.

The Israeli army shot dead two militants in the West Bank on Tuesday. It said one was plotting a suicide bombing.

The killings followed the first high-level talks in months between Israelis and Palestinians on Monday on ending 22 months of bloodshed.

At least 1,484 Palestinians and 585 Israelis have been killed since the Palestinians began their uprising against Israeli occupation in September 2000.

On Tuesday, the US State Department confirmed a Palestinian delegation would be in Washington on Thursday and Friday. *Reuters*

Libya shedding pariah status, says UK minister

LONDON—Libya and its leader Moammar Ghadafi are shaking off their reputation as a global pariah, in stark contrast to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the first British government minister to visit Tripoli in nearly 20 years said Wednesday.

"Ghadafi was indeed involved in the past in terrorism but the evidence is that now that he has not been involved in terrorism for some years," said Mike O'Brien, minister for the Middle East.

"He is not threatening his neighbors," O'Brien told BBC radio by telephone from Tripoli, ahead of a meeting with Gadhafi later Wednesday at the Libyan leader's base near the Mediterranean coastal town of Sirte.

"We still have criticisms of Libya on human rights grounds and aspects of foreign policy," O'Brien said. "But Libya is moving away from being an outlaw pariah state towards engagement with the West, with the rest of the international community and in compliance with international law."

"By contrast, Saddam Hussein murders his people with poison gas, threatens his neighbors, is breaching 73 out of 77 UN resolutions, is moving away from compliance with international law and won't allow (weapons) inspectors of the United Nations into Iraq," he said.

"One is moving towards compliance and the other is moving away from compliance," he said.

O'Brien, who arrived Tuesday in Tripoli, is the first British minister to visit Libya since 1984, when a British policewoman was killed by a shot fired from the Libyan embassy in London.

His trip comes as US President George W. Bush considers a military strike against Baghdad to oust Saddam Hussein and halt Iraq's suspected development of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Before leaving London, O'Brien said the trip was aimed at securing Gadhafi's support to combat international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

But he stressed he would not negotiate compensation for the families of victims of the Lockerbie bombing.

Libyan intelligence agent Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi is serving a life sentence in a Glasgow jail for smuggling a bomb aboard a Pan American jumbo jet that blew up over Lockerbie, southwest Scotland in December 1988, killing all 259 passengers and crew plus 11 people on the ground. *AFP*

ELEVEN-month-old conjoined twins from Guatemala, Maria Teresa (left) and Maria de Jesus Alvarez, are shown in this recent photograph. REUTERS

Operation unjoins twins

LOS ANGELES—Twin Guatemalan girls joined at the top of the head were separated in a 22-hour operation that ended at dawn on Tuesday but one of the year-old sisters was taken back for more surgery to stop bleeding on the brain.

Late Tuesday doctors said both girls were under sedation in critical but stable condition in the intensive care unit at the University of California at Los Angeles Mattel Children's Hospital.

"When they smile back to us then we will know they are back to where they were prior to surgery," said Dr. Jorge Lazareff, lead neurosurgeon on the case, adding that by Monday doctors will have a clearer picture of the recovery time.

The 50-strong medical team at the hospital cheered and whooped with joy at the end of a marathon operation in which doctors successfully separated the brains, skulls and skin of the 1-year-old girls.

But less than four hours later, one of the twins—Maria Teresa Quiej-Alvarez—suffered a subdural hematoma and underwent a two-part, nearly five-hour surgical procedure to remove the build-up of blood.

"Despite the complication involving Maria Teresa, we feel that the outlook for both twins is positive," Lazareff said. *Reuters*

Japan ID system leaks only days after launch

TOKYO—Japan's new nationwide identification system reported its first data leak on Wednesday, just two days after the program was launched amid widespread fear it would be prone to breaches of privacy.

Personal information from as many as 2,584 people was sent to the wrong people, said Kaoru Okuhira, a spokesperson for the Osaka regional government. He added that it was likely the first leak since Monday's kickoff of the new ID system.

The information was mailed to households by Moriguchi city, a suburb of the western metropolis of Osaka. The letters correctly contained a verification of personal data for the addressee households. But the notices also accidentally contained identification numbers, gender information and birthdates of other people.

The other people's names were not attached, Okuhira said. The mistakenly mailed information accounted for 741 households, or 2,584 people.

"I apologize deeply for the trouble we have caused and ask for your understanding as we proceed with the new resident registry network," Moriguchi Mayor Hiromi Kita said.

The new ID system aims to streamline Japan's cumbersome, paper-heavy bureaucracy by linking local resident registries across a nationwide computer network. People will also receive 11-digit identification numbers—much like the US social security number—that can be used to draw up basic personal information and cut down red tape during various administrative procedures.

Widespread protests and opposition have beleaguered the system since its inception with many fearing that it would violate individual privacy and be ripe for abuse.

The leak comes after a series of blunders that have eroded public trust.

Only months ago, it was discovered that the Defense Agency had been secretly compiling private information on people who had requested documents under the country's freedom of information act.

On Tuesday, the Defense Agency said police were investigating a possible data leak from military computers and warned that sensitive information may have been divulged.

Even before Monday's kickoff, the system was undermined by five municipalities refusing to register their information, and by Yokohama, a city of 3.4 million people, saying it would register information only from those who consent. *AP*

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See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2648 Series of 2002

China: Taiwan risks attack with referendum

BEIJING—China's military said Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian may risk attack if he presses ahead with a referendum on independence, the China Daily reported on Wednesday.

The Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (Arats), Beijing's semi-official body for negotiating with Taipei, also scoffed at Chen's subsequent softening of his remarks, saying the effort amounted to "sophistry."

In the first comment by the People's Liberation Army on Chen's enthusiastic endorsement of a referendum at the weekend, a senior officer told the newspaper the Taiwan leader was undermining Beijing's commitment to peaceful reunification.

There was a growing possibility "that peace will have to be safeguarded and won through the use of force" if the island, which Beijing views as a renegade province that must be reunited with the mainland, moved toward a referendum, he said.

"Although the Chinese government remains firm in adhering to peaceful reunification and is doing its utmost to achieve that objective, rampant pro-independence activities on the island are threatening to undermine conditions for realization of that goal," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Chen said on Saturday that holding a referendum was a "basic human right" and in reality there was "one country on each side" of the Taiwan Strait.

Beijing finally responded officially on Monday, saying Chen was leading the island to disaster.

On Wednesday, China's official state media let loose in fury at Chen, who now asserts that his remarks were oversimplified and distorted because he was trying to put across the idea of equal sovereignty.

That formulation was similar to former Taiwan president Lee Teng-hui's call in 1999 to redefine bilateral ties as "special state-to-state" relations and China reacted in much the same way.

Nearly all Chinese media ignored the efforts to soft pedal by Chen, who is head of the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party. *Reuters*

PROFESSIONAL DANCER AT 11
Meri Nirmala Sari, 11, performs a Legong Kraton dance for tourists, August 6, in Ubud, Bali, Indonesia. Photo at left shows her applying makeup before the performance. Meri dances with the Gunung Sari Peliatan dance group and has become professional. She started dancing at age 5.

GETTY IMAGES

US trial highlights abductions

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—The San Diego man on trial for kidnapping and murdering 7-year-old Danielle van Dam was guilty of the "ultimate evil," prosecutors said on Tuesday, but a defense lawyer said "sex and drug behavior" by the girl's parents had brought an unknown predator into the home.

Delivering closing arguments in the two-month trial of David Westerfield, Deputy District Attorney Jeff Dusek told jurors that violent sexual fantasies about young girls drove the 50-year-old engineer to kidnap and assault Danielle—and then kill her so that he would not be caught.

"He is guilty of these crimes, this ultimate evil he committed," Dusek told the six-man, six-woman jury. "He is guilty to the core." Closing arguments came one day before jurors were due to begin deliberating kidnapping, murder and possession of child pornography charges against Westerfield that could bring him the death penalty if he is convicted.

The sensational trial has proceeded amid a new focus in America on the abduction of young girls. Though statistics suggest that such crimes are not on the rise, a series of brazen, high-profile kidnappings over the past six months has touched a nerve in the nation, especially among parents.

Westerfield remained largely impassive as Dusek accused him of creeping into the van Dam home in the middle of the night of Feb. 1 and hiding in Danielle's dark bedroom while she slept in her canopied bed before snatching, assaulting and killing her.

Dusek, spelling out details of the prosecution's theory of the case for the first time, said evidence suggested that Westerfield entered the van Dam home through an unlocked garage door and slipped into Danielle's pink-and-white bedroom, where he became trapped until the girl's parents went to sleep. *Reuters*

Annan to Iraq: Send formal invitation for UN monitors

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan told Iraq on Tuesday it would have to send a "formal invitation" for UN inspectors to return to Baghdad before further substantive talks could be held on weapons issues.

Annan was replying to Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri, who invited chief UN inspector Hans Blix to go to Baghdad for a review of suspected weapons of mass destruction programs.

While turning down Iraq's invitation to discuss unresolved disarmament issues, Annan left the door open for discussions between Blix and Iraqi arms experts, diplomats said. Those presumably could be held outside of Baghdad on practical arrangements as to how future inspections would be conducted, such as communications and internal flights.

Annan outlined steps Iraq must accept according to a 1999 Security Council resolution, which called for the return of the inspectors, who have been out of the country since they left in December 1998 on the eve of a US-British bombing raid.

"I look forward to receiving from your government a confirmation that it accepts the sequence of steps outlined above, along with a formal invitation to the UN Monitoring, Inspection and Verification Commission," the body Blix heads, known as UNMOVIC, Annan wrote.

"It is my sincere hope that a speedy resumption of inspections will help facilitate the resolution of all outstanding issues," Annan said.

At issue is Iraq's insistence the talks with Blix focus on a UN evaluation of what remains to be done in investigating nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic weapons programs.

But the 1999 Security Council resolution says the inspectors cannot determine "key remaining disarmament tasks" until they are back on the ground to see what happened since they left in December 1998.

Movement on the inspectors would probably create new international pressure on the United States to hold back on military action against Iraq, which the Bush administration is exploring in an effort to oust President Saddam Hussein. *Reuters*

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FIRST MONTHLY DRAW

DRAW DATE: Sept. 6, 2002 | DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES: **Sept. 4, 2002 12 midnight**

VENUE : I-MART OFFICE - Suite 310-312 Solmac Bldg. #84 Dapitan cor. Banawe St. Quezon City Time : 7:30pm

PRIZES:

1st Prize - one (1) **Samsung Home Theater Showcase** (worth P 125,000.00)
with Samsung 109.22 cm (43 inch) Projection TV
2nd Prize - one (1) **Sari-Sari Store Showcase** (worth P 100,000.00)
3rd Prize - one (1) **Compaq Presario 5000** (worth P 50,000.00)
Computer Package - Athlon 1.1 Ghz, 56k Modem,
CDRW-DVD combo, Win Me preloaded, 3 sets color kit faceplates

Consolation Prizes: 100 Winners
100 Bags of Groceries (worth P 500.00 each) (worth P 50,000.00)

2ND MONTHLY DRAW

DRAW DATE: Oct. 7, 2002 | DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES: **Oct. 5, 2002 12 midnight**

VENUE : I-MART OFFICE - Suite 310-312 Solmac Bldg. #84 Dapitan cor. Banawe St. Quezon City Time : 7:30pm

PRIZES:

1st Prize - one (1) **Samsung Home Theater Showcase** (worth P 125,000.00)
with Samsung 109.22 cm (43 inch) Projection TV
2nd Prize - one (1) **Sari-Sari Store Showcase** (worth P 100,000.00)
3rd Prize - one (1) **Compaq Presario 5000** (worth P 50,000.00)
Computer Package - Athlon 1.1 Ghz, 56k Modem,
CDRW-DVD combo, Win Me preloaded, 3 sets color kit faceplates

Consolation Prizes: 100 Winners
100 Bags of Groceries (worth P 500.00 each) (worth P 50,000.00)

GRAND DRAW

DRAW DATE: Nov. 5, 2002 | DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES: **Oct. 31, 2002 12 midnight**

VENUE : I-MART OFFICE - Suite 310-312 Solmac Bldg. #84 Dapitan cor. Banawe St. Quezon City Time : 7:30pm

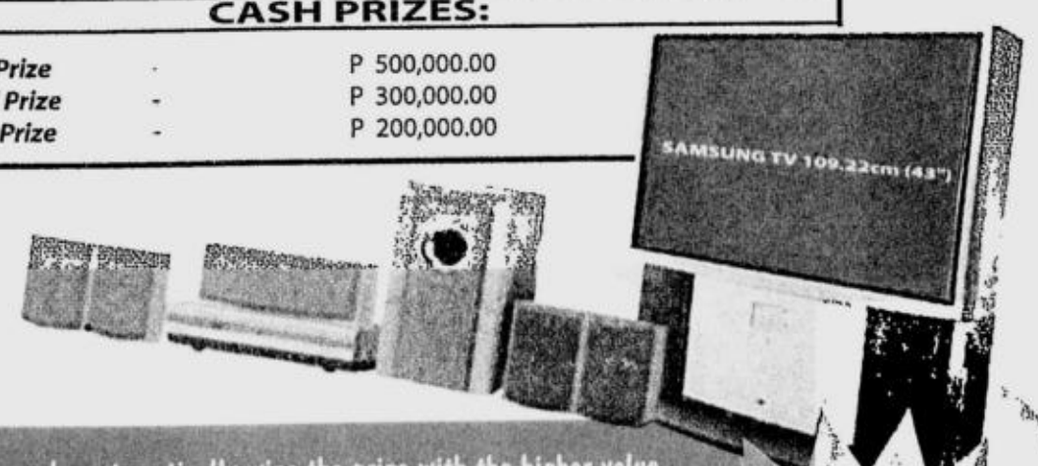
SHOWCASE PRIZES:

1st Prize - one (1) **Samsung Home Theater Showcase** (worth P 125,000.00)
with Samsung 109.22 cm (43 inch) Projection TV
2nd Prize - one (1) **Sari-Sari Store Showcase** (worth P 100,000.00)
3rd Prize - one (1) **Compaq Presario 5000** (worth P 50,000.00)
Computer Package - Athlon 1.1 Ghz, 56k Modem,
CDRW-DVD combo, Win Me preloaded, 3 sets color kit faceplates

Consolation Prizes: 150 winners
150 Bags of Groceries (worth P 500.00 each) (worth P 75,000.00)

CASH PRIZES:

1st Prize	-	P 500,000.00
2nd Prize	-	P 300,000.00
3rd Prize	-	P 200,000.00



6. Shopper can win only once per draw. If a shopper's name is drawn more than once, he or she automatically wins the prize with the higher value.
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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Western section of Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy.
FORECAST: The Western section of Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy.
SOURCE: PAGASA
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34°	Lo 25°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 25°	Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 26°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/08/02

Canada court junks transfer to RP of Javier slay suspect

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—After 11 years of litigation, a Canadian court has rejected the extradition of one of the principal accused in the murder of former Antique Governor Evelio Javier.

Voting 3-0, the Ontario Court of Appeal on Aug. 1 junked the request of the Philippine government to extradite Rodolfo Pacificador to the Philippines, according to a report of the Toronto Star, one of Canada's leading daily newspaper, posted on its website.

The ruling stopped the serving of a federal warrant that would have surrendered Pacificador to Philippine courts to face charges for Javier's murder and the wounding of several others.

In denying Pacificador's extradition, the Canadian court said Pacificador's constitutional rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms will be violated by sending him back to the Philippines.

The Toronto Star report said the court had ruled in favor of Pacificador because "all evidence points to the likelihood" that Pacificador "would be tortured and jailed indefinitely without trial."

Toronto lawyer Phil Campbell, who, along with Wes Wilson, represented Pacificador in the case, was quoted by the report as saying that Pacificador "didn't know if he was going to come out or end up on an airplane destined for the Philippines, where we believed he would be shot on the (airport) tarmac."

Pacificador fled to Canada in October 1987 and requested refugee status. He was detained for seven years until he was freed on bail in 1998.

The Philippine government had requested Pacificador's extradition on Sept. 10, 1991 through a diplomatic note to the Canadian government.

In his request for refugee status, Pacificador claimed that the judicial and political systems in the Philippines could not grant him a fair trial or ensure his safety. If he was returned to the Philippines, he added his prosecution would be for purely political motives.

On Oct. 23, 1996, Allan Rock, then Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, ordered the surrender of Pacificador to Philippine authorities.

Rock was assured by the Philippine government that every effort would be made to ensure that Pacificador's trial would be completed within a year of the extradition date and if Pacificador was convicted, he would not face the death penalty.

Rock's successor, Anne McLellan, refused to reconsider the decision in 1999.

Pacificador, through his Canadian public lawyers, appealed the decision to the District Court of Toronto but the court affirmed Rock's order. Pacificador subsequently elevated his case to the Court of Appeals.

Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera III, head of the prosecution panel in the murder case of Javier, confirmed the report.

ROUNDUP

P3M razed in fire

DAVAO CITY—Some P3 million worth of property were damaged after fire hit a residential area near the Davao International Airport here on Friday. Fire Marshall Insp. Samuel Bautista of the Lanang Fire Station said it took more than 30 minutes for firemen to put off the fire, which started at about 2:30 a.m. No one was reported hurt. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Woman shot dead

DAVAO CITY—A health insurance counselor on board a taxicab was gunned down by two motorcycle-riding men suspected to be members of the so-called Davao Death Squad on Monday. The victim, Carmencita Alteza, was a counselor of a health maintenance firm. Taxi driver Cleopas Rodriguez said when the firing started, he immediately parked the cab on the road shoulder and ran, leaving the victim behind. He returned to his vehicle when the suspects fled. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Fake CDs seized

DAVAO CITY—Some P9.4 million worth of pirated audio compact discs and video compact discs were seized by agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group here on Monday. Supt. Rene Inal, regional chief of the CIDG, said 188,000 fake CDs and VCDs placed inside 125 sacks and boxes were confiscated in a raid on the warehouse of Pandi Norayda Yaquin on Nograles Avenue in Barangay 39-D here. Yaquin was charged with violation of the Intellectual Property Rights Law and the Video Regulatory Board Law. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Teachers' awards

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Metrobank Foundation has named two Dumaguete teachers among this year's batch of 12 outstanding teachers in the country. Maria Jesusa C. Despojo of the Dumaguete City High School and Dr. T. Valentino S. Sitoy Jr. of the Central Visayas Polytechnic College will be awarded gold medallions, along with ten other awardees, by President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang on Sept. 2. Each will be awarded a trophy and cash prize of P150,000. *Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Balikatan benefits

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Officials of the regional peace and order council (ROPC) have asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to include Cagayan Valley among the recipients of benefits from the Balikatan exercises. Nueva Vizcaya Governor Rodolfo Agbayani, also RPOC chair, said the council, through a resolution, had asked the President's help so the infrastructure component of the exercises could benefit the region. Agbayani said they hope to benefit through the construction of roads and bridges to access the region's remote areas. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Berroya yields post

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police director, relinquished his post to Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon in a turnover rite here last week. Berroya has served the region for a year. Calderon is a member of PMA Class 1973 and native of Nueva Ecija. In Cagayan Valley, Chief Supt. Dominador Resos Jr., regional police director, was relieved and transferred to the office of the Philippine National Police's directorate for logistics in Camp Crame. Senior Supt. Romeo Pagalilauan, Cagayan Valley assistant police director, was named acting director of the regional police office. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Plans for Mt. Pulag

BAGUIO CITY—Officials of the Department of Tourism and Department of Environment and Natural Resources are drafting a comprehensive plan to make Mt. Pulag in Benguet a protected eco-tourism destination. The move supports Benguet Rep. Samuel Dangwa's House Bill No. 3059, which asked for a P10-million fund for Mt. Pulag, Luzon's highest peak. Mt. Pulag boasts of pristine pine forests and rare flora and fauna. *Delmar Carino, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Wanted men nabbed

PRIETO DIAZ, Sorsogon—Prieto Diaz police led by Insp. Salvador F. Ferreras arrested on Tuesday two wanted persons here. Senior Supt. Arne de los Santos, Sorsogon police director, identified the suspects as Juan Destajo and Michael Emil, who were charged with attempted murder and violation of RA 7610, respectively. *Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

16,000 bags of rice seized

TACLOBAN CITY—Army soldiers seized on Saturday about 16,000 bags of suspected smuggled rice worth at least P13 million in Victoria town, Northern Samar.

Major Gen. Romeo Dominguez, the Army's 8th Infantry Division commander, said soldiers confiscated the rice on board MV Gloria.

Dominguez said they acted on a tip from a concerned citizen that a ship carrying smuggled rice had arrived from Manila.

The Bureau of Customs (BoC) immediately ordered the crewmembers of MV Gloria not to unload the bags of rice pending investigation.

Based on documents obtained by the Eastern Visayas customs office, MV Gloria left Manila on July 19.

The consignee was identified as Rolando Azurin with business address at Barangay Poblacion, Victoria.

A customs investigator, who declined to be identified, told the INQUIRER that Azurin had produced a copy of his shipping clearance, which was allegedly issued warrant of by the National Food Authority in Manila.

One Ricardo Mutya, a customs official, signed the shipping clearance issued on July 26, 2002 with shipping number CDO-G-021267.

The investigator said he could not yet determine whether the bags of rice were smuggled or not. *Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

FOOD FOR THE GODS BING GONZALES
The sign says it all. A durian vendor prepares for the expected throng of durian lovers as prices have dropped owing to a bumper harvest.

Sagada folk denounce 'ethnic bias'

BAGUIO CITY—Residents of the tourist town of Sagada in Mt. Province have assailed police officials for describing members of a robbery group arrested last week as belonging to the "Sagada-Kalinga holdup gang."

Sagada Mayor Thomas Killip said the label, which the Cordillera police used in their statement distributed to reporters, offended Sagada villagers.

Killip said Sagada residents want to clarify that the tourist town is not harboring any crime syndicate or robbery group.

Image

"This (identification of some members of the group as coming from Sagada) is not a good image of our community. But we would like to congratulate and commend the agencies involved in their arrest," Killip said.

The newly-organized Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) and the Cordillera police, in a statement, linked the gang to robbery and holdups in Benguet, Pangasinan and La Union.

Sagada group

Police identified suspects John Malidum Jr., Alex Ubido, Jonathan Fokan, Romeo Binuloc, Heraldy Bag-ay, Nelson Bag-ay, Peter Bokalen and Gilbert Balonsat, as belonging to the gang's "Sagada group."

The other suspects, Edmundo Boswal, Aslo Ambonoc, David Pulacan and Junel Balutoc, were identified as belonging to the "Kalinga group."

But Killip said those who were identified by the police as coming from Sagada were not natives of the town. He said only Malidum was born in Sagada, but he grew up in Tabuk, Kalinga.

"When I read the newspapers, I immediately called up our municipal civil registry office and found out that the family names of the suspects are not in the list, except for Malidum. When I saw them on TV, the more I was convinced that they are not from (Sagada) because their features are different from Sagada natives," Killip said.

He said the Sagada municipal council will issue a resolution condemning the label.

He said the label might affect Sagada's tourism industry that attracts at least 30,000 tourists a year. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Oil slick alarms Coast Guard official

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—An oil slick believed to have originated from sunken vessels has alarmed a Coast Guard official here.

General Santos Coast Guard station chief Lt. Cmdr. George Ursabia said they have noticed an "unusual amount" of oil on the surface of the Sarangani Bay particularly in the Makar port area.

Ursabia appealed to the three oil depots here to help contain the slick.

Several years ago, Ursabia said, two vessels docked at the Makar Port sunk and were never salvaged.

One of these vessels, he said, was MV Solid 1, an inter-island cargo vessel owned by the Solid Shipping Lines, which sank in 1995.

Ursabia said the cargo ship's fuel tank was loaded with more than 30,000 liters of bunker fuel when it sank about 50 meters off Pier 2.

He said the vessel must be raised to prevent further pollution.

"We can retrieve the vessels from beneath the 200-meter deep Makar Port, but it's too expensive and we need sophisticated equipment to carry it out," Ursabia told reporters here.

He said the amount of spillage was exacerbating prompting the Coast Guard to seek help.

"The oil slick became very visible during high tide. But during low tide you may suspect it was just waste material coming from vessels docked at the port," Ursabia said.

Should the oil slick worsen, Ursabia said the Coast Guard might request for salvage equipment to retrieve ships.

But Andy Tan, manager of Solid Shipping Lines, denied the oil slick came from their boat.

He said the vessel's tank had been emptied shortly after it sank.

Tan asked the Coast Guard to investigate further. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

American draws 80-year prison term for rape

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A retired American serviceman was yesterday sentenced to 80 years imprisonment for raping twice his 15-year-old housemaid in 2000.

Regional Trial Court Judge Henry Arles of Kabankalan City meted Victor Pearson, 56, with two life terms after he found the American guilty of two counts of rape.

He also ordered Pearson, 56, to indemnify his victim with P100,000 and P500,000 in moral damages.

Pearson was stoic when the decision was being read inside the jam-packed courtroom in Kabankalan, 97 kilometers south of this city. He later told reporters that he was not given justice.

Members of women's groups and some residents of Ilog town, who attended the promulgation, expressed joy at the verdict.

Private prosecutor Rowena Guanzon said the victim could now move on with her life. "She feels vindicated and this is important in her recovery," she said.

But Guanzon said Pearson is still facing 65 more counts of rape filed by four other girls whose ages range from 13 to 17 and who also accused the American of raping them.

Pearson was accused of raping minors while they were working for him in his compound in Barangay Andulawan, Ilog, about 103 km south of Bacolod.

Court records showed that Pearson raped Maria (not her real name) on Oct. 28 and Dec. 4, 2000.

Maria testified that she had confided her ordeal to other girls working for Pearson when she was first raped.

The girls just embraced her and told her there was nothing they could do because they, too, had been raped, Maria said.

Maria said she had asked Pearson if she could go home but the American threatened that something bad would happen to her and her family if she did not return.

Pearson denied raping the girl. He claimed that his houseboy, identified only as Gerry, conspired with his female employees in fabricating the rape charges.

The American claimed that Gerry was mad at him because Pearson had an affair with his wife.

In a 19-page decision, Judge Arles did not give weight to Pearson's alibi, saying that Maria's testimony was "free from any serious inconsistency or contradiction."

The judge said Pearson, being an employer, took advantage of his influence and moral ascendancy on Maria.

"Out of extreme poverty the complainant stopped schooling to find work to help her parents, only to find herself an unfortunate victim of rape," he said.

Muslim clerics allow wives, kids to attend conference for peace

DAVAO CITY—Perhaps for the first time in history, Muslim clerics have allowed their wives and children to directly participate in discussions aimed at finding solutions to the Mindanao peace and order problem.

And sentiments rushed like a river as Moro women and the youth aired out their opinions and suggestions that left the mouths of some bishops and priests gaping during the 19th general assembly of the Bishops-Ulama Forum (BUF) here on Saturday.

Archbishop Fernando Capalla, one of the convenors of the BUF, said he was really surprised at the response they got from women and children during the assembly.

"I found some of the youth and women to be very articulate, eloquent and artistic in the workshops we conducted," he said.

He added that the Moro women, who were traditionally relegated to the background, were "very aggressive and articulate."

.Capalla said this indicated that Moro women know what they want and more importantly, are very intent on getting what they want.

Since the forum, which was made up of 22 Catholic bishops, 26 Ulama (plural of *alim*) and 18 Protestant bishops, started in 1996, women and the youth were not allowed to participate.

Capalla said that after conducting 18 dialogues in the past, the organizers of the BUF decided to take a proactive role and go back to the very foundation of society—the family.

He said that during the workshops, the youth were also aggressively making their stance on peace.

"They told us that 'we are the future of Mindanao, we also have to assert ourselves in peace building and you have to reckon with us.' I'm happy that they said that," Capalla said.

Dr. Intan Ansamo from Lanao del Sur said wives and husbands play different roles in the family and although the father is the king of the family, the wife can play different roles like being a mother to her children or friend to the whole clan.

She said it was a misconception that the wife was always subservient to the husband. In reality, she said couples work together for the success of the family.

Jana Jane Dacubor, 25 years old, and member of the Campus Ministry of Christ, said the BUF failed to solicit the opinion of the youth when peace should be for their benefit. *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Lapid says he's open to VP race

By Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Although he has expressed intention to run for Angeles City mayor, three-term Pampanga Gov. Manuel "Lito" Lapid is also willing to be President Macapagal-Arroyo's running mate in 2004.

In a meeting with the Society of Pampanga Columnists at the provincial capitol here on Monday, Lapid said he would not say "no" to Ms Macapagal if she invites him to be her vice presidential candidate.

"If I'll be asked to run for senator, I'll say 'no' because I lack college education and I can not engage the intelligent senators in a debate. I'm not even fluent in English. But if the President would ask me to be her vice president, I will not say no and I will be able to show her my loyalty," he said.

Lapid said as vice president, he could serve as secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and could help a lot of people.

"I never dreamed of becoming president but to reach the second highest position in the country would be a great honor. I would be content if she (Ms Macapagal) would appoint me as DSWD secretary, the position she held when she was still the vice president," he said.

Earlier, a source in the administration Lakas-NUCD party disclosed to reporters here that Lapid might be forced to run as Ms Macapagal's running mate in the 2004 elections should movie star Fernando Poe Jr. decide to join the presidential race.

The source said Lapid's candidacy would equalize the popularity of Poe's ticket among the masses.

For now, Lapid said he has his eyes on the mayoral post of nearby Angeles, a highly urbanized city that is politically and economically independent from Pampanga.

He said Angeles City Mayor Carmelo Lazatin, who is serving his second term, has already expressed his intention to give way to his candidacy.

"Mayor Lazatin assured me that he will run for congressman. He wants to regain the position he held for nine years before he became mayor," Lapid said.

Lapid also said he has been urging Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, the President's eldest son, to be his successor in the provincial capitol. He said Arroyo "would make a good governor."

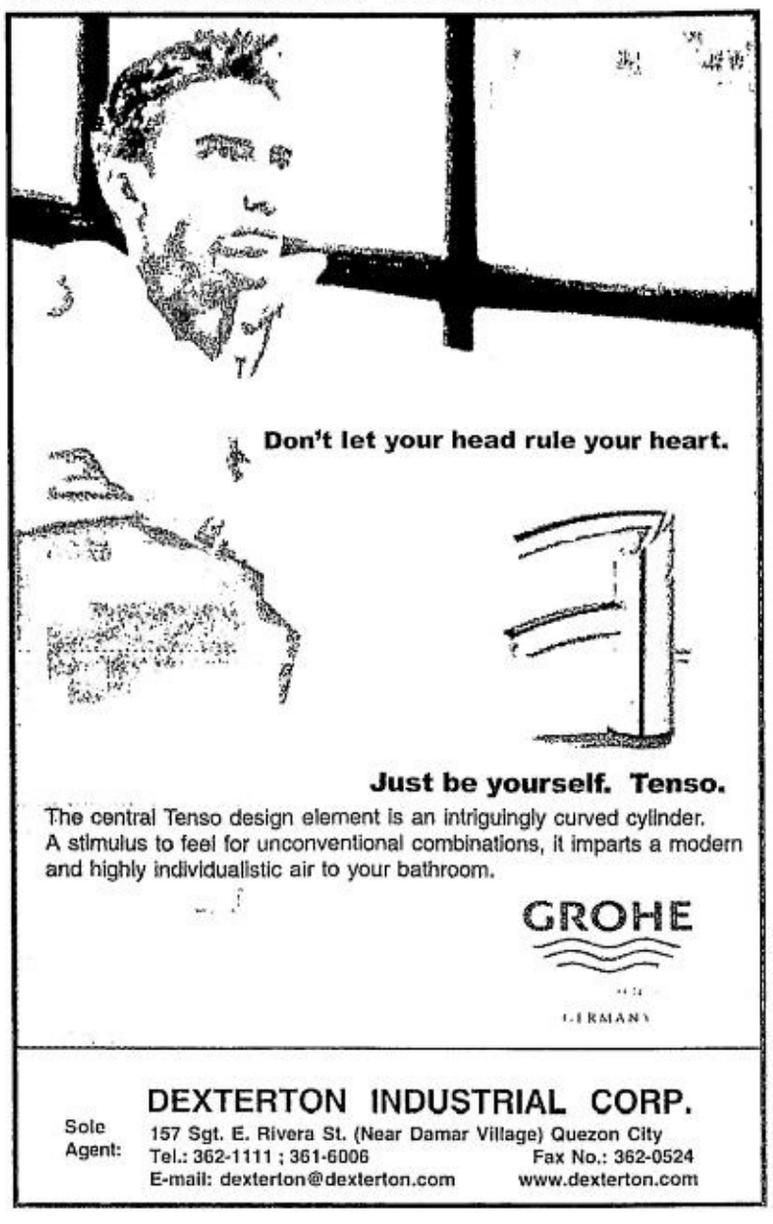
"But if Mikey decides to run for congressman of the second district, I would have to ask Mark (Lapid) to run for governor," Lapid said.

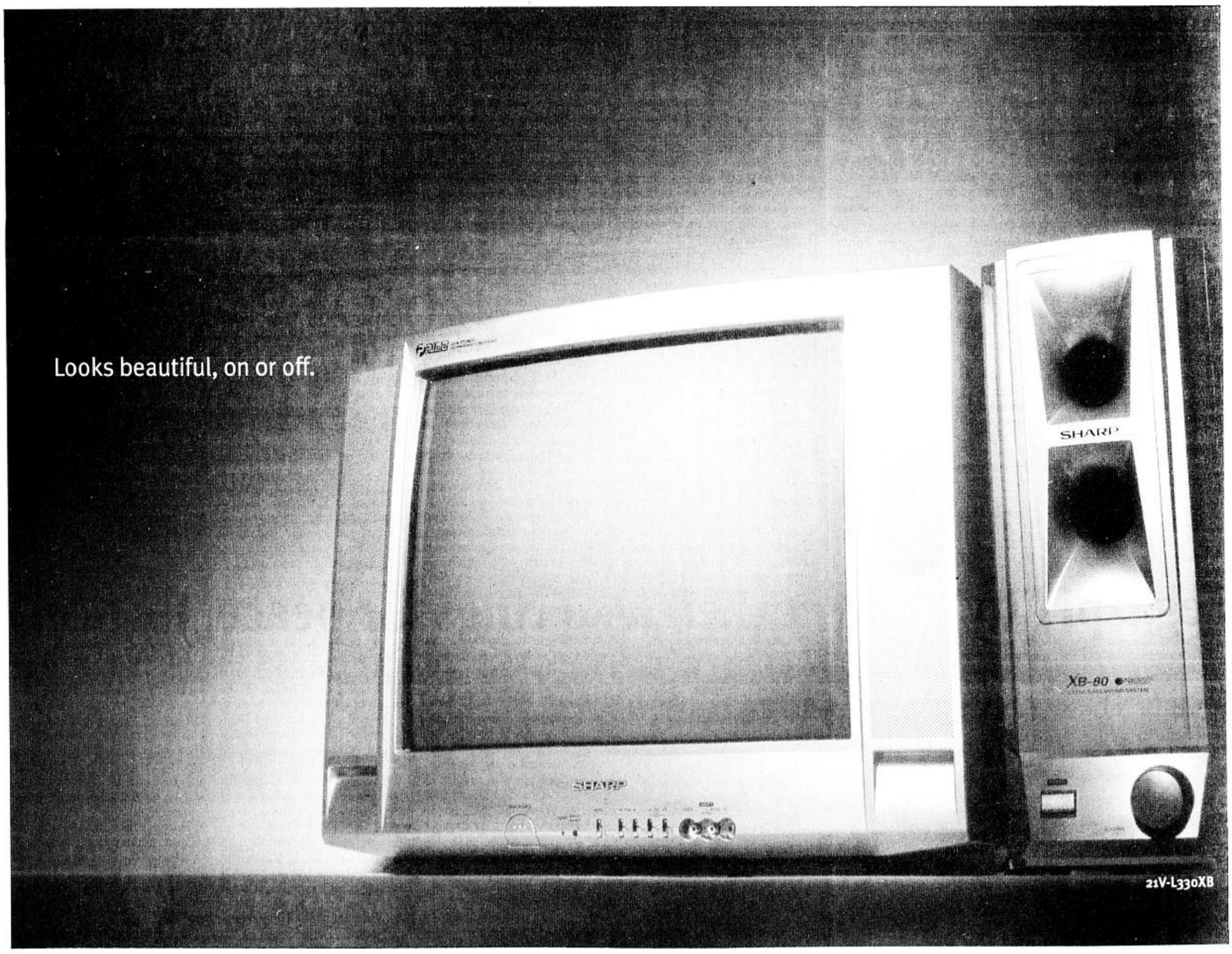
Mark, the former Sangguniang Kabataan provincial federation president and currently barangay captain of Poblacion in Porac town, is the eldest son of Lapid.

He said Mark has an edge over Pampanga Reps. Oscar Rodriguez and Juan Pablo Bondoc who are also planning to run for governor.

But Arroyo said he has not decided what position he would seek in the 2004 elections.

"I could not yet say that I would run for governor or congressman. All possibilities are still open. What is important now is to work for our province," he said.





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INQUIRER Southern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Palawan folk fight threat to survival

By Dominique Monera-Tabora
Cagayancillo, Palawan

RESIDENTS of Cagayancillo, Palawan in the middle of Sulu Sea have decided. They cannot allow foreigners, who poach on their sea territory, to destroy their only source of livelihood.

These foreigners, especially the Chinese nationals, have been feasting on their abundant seaweed farms and fishing grounds with their sophisticated equipment and illegal means, they claimed.

Mayor Joel Carceller, who had worked in China for four years and can speak Mandarin, revealed that the Chinese frequently fish in their municipality as "I often hear the Chinese talking over the VHF radio at night but there is nothing we can do."

But the residents believe they can do something, and they have started to do something.

First catch

In a brave and united effort, a hundred fishermen and residents led by village councilor Nison Abados on board ten motorboats surrounded and apprehended 17 Chinese nationals fishing with cyanide near their seaweed farm last May 12.

Two days before the apprehension, residents of Sitio Cawili saw the same group of Chinese fishing in the reef. But by the time the apprehending team led by Carceller arrived in the area, the Chinese fishers had left.

So, this time, they encircled the poachers and called Carceller who—with a composite team of Navy men, Philippine National Police personnel and staff of the Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas (KKP)—proceeded to Cawili Island onboard the M/B Minerva, a research boat of the KKP.

Ten nautical miles off Cawili Island, the mayor, however, noticed a Chinese fishing vessel leaving the area. Carceller immediately dispatched two speedboats to chase the fleeing vessel.

While chasing the vessel, the apprehending team observed several items thrown overboard by its Chinese crew. Most of the items thrown immediately sank in the Sulu Sea.

Only three items were retrieved by the second speedboat, which turned out to be plastic containers filled with liquefied sodium cyanide.

Meanwhile, the first speedboat signaled the Chinese boat captain to stop the vessel and fired warning shots but these were repeatedly ignored.

While the Navy personnel attempted to come alongside the vessel, the Chinese boat captain swerved the fishing vessel almost causing the speedboat to sink.

After 30 minutes of pursuit in the municipal waters of Cagayancillo, Navyman SN1 Ludovico Clemente was able to jump from the speedboat and boarded the Chinese vessel at the back of the ship. It was only then that other members of the composite team were able to board the vessel and directed it to return to Cawili Island.

But when Carceller was about to disembark from the caught vessel in Cawili Island, the boat captain named Wei Kuo Pan rammed the fishing vessel on the reef, which destroyed a five-meter stretch of live corals.

Live fish

The arresting team found 389 pieces of live humphead wrasse (*mameng*) and grouper (*lapu-lapu*) weighing a total of 653.5 kilograms inside the Chinese fishing vessel with bow number 62155.

It also confiscated 31 bottles of liquefied cyanide, three containers of water with cyanide and 35 tablets of cyanide from the Chinese fishing crew.

The vessel was equipped with a global positioning system, radar, depth sounder, radios and five maps of Palawan with 14 markings—indicating areas where they had fished.

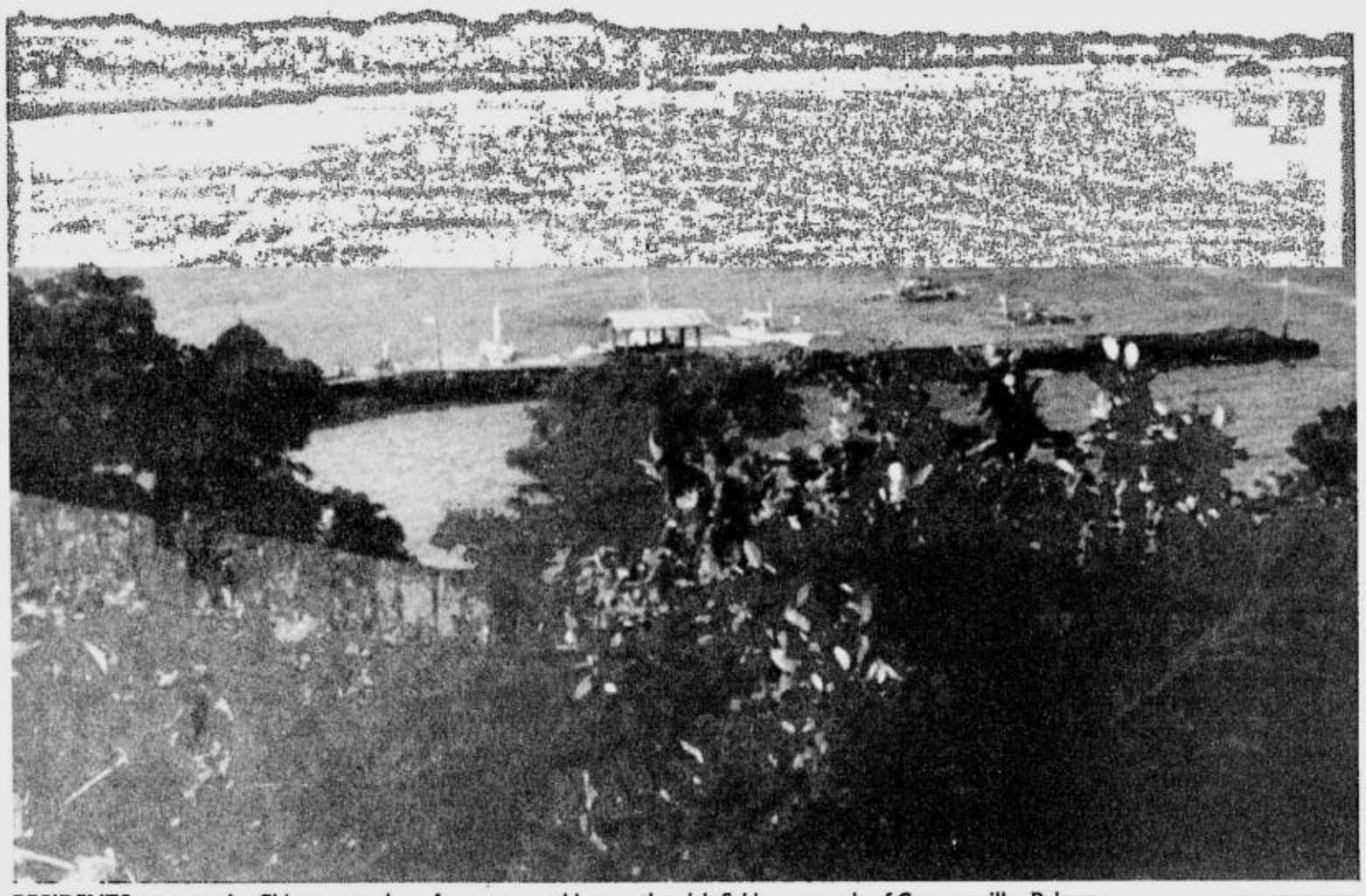
Norwin Abes, law enforcement officer of KKP Tubbataha project, pointed out that the handwritten Chinese markings on the map indicated that the Chinese fishermen also fished in the Apo Reef Protected Area as well as in the Calamian group of islands and Balabac.

Abes was alarmed that the use of sodium cyanide in catching the humphead wrasse and grouper had damaged the corals near Cawili Island.

His fears were confirmed when he dived in the reef where the Chinese fished and saw huge spots of bleached corals. Abes counted five spots of dying corals, measuring two meters each.

Researchers have found that in laboratory conditions, corals exposed to small dosages of cyanide die within a short time. Reefs may take decades to recover from the impact of cyanide fishing.

Wrasses and groupers are generally found in well-developed coral reefs in clear waters.



RESIDENTS prevent the Chinese poachers from encroaching on the rich fishing grounds of Cagayancillo, Palawan. GERALDFORD TICKE

Since humphead wrasse is an extremely wary fish that hides in corals, catching it by fishing hook is difficult, say local Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources officials. They add that the fastest and easiest way to catch live wrasses and groupers is by squirting cyanide in the corals to stun the fish out of their hiding places. The method destroys the reef and damages the delicate marine habitat. While cyanide is naturally flushed from the fish's system after three days in seawater, the toxin remains in the sea and continues to destroy everything it gets in contact with.

Breeders

The inventory of fish found in the Chinese vessel showed that some of the wrasses weighed 17 kilos and measured 140 centimeters each while the groupers weighed 6.5 kilos and measured 72 cm each.

The sizes of the fish indicated that these were breeders and the destruction of their habitat will affect future stock of wrasses and groupers.

These large fish are important because they are all males. Groupers and wrasses change sex during growth. Groupers change sex from female to male at a size of 50-55 cm. Without the large male ones, the fish population cannot reproduce.

Various studies conducted from 1995 until 2000 reveal that humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulates*) populations have been decimated from all of the South East Asian waters. The humphead wrasse, also called Maori or Napoleon wrasse, is under heavy fishing pressure on a global basis and is one of the marine animals recommended for inclusion on the list of those vulnerable to extinction.

But the increased demand for live wrasses and groupers in the Asian market only serves to jack up the prices of these fish species.

Provincial fisheries officials say the buying prices of live wrasses in the country range from P2,500 to P3,000 per kilo while groupers are priced at P500 cheaper than the wrasses.

Hong Kong is the major trading and import market for live reef fish. In 1995, consumers in Hong Kong pay $60-$90 per kilo for live humphead wrasse and $40-60 for red-colored grouper.

But prices for humphead wrasse have risen by more than 300 percent since 1995. In restaurants in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, cyanide-caught groupers and humphead wrasses are sold in live food restaurants at prices exceeding $225 per kg.

Seaweeds

Three days after the Chinese fished in their area, the residents of Sitio Cawili found that their seaweeds were destroyed because of the presence of cyanide in the sea, said Carceller. The seaweeds were supposed to be harvested last June.

Seaweed farming is the primary livelihood of around 9,000 residents in Cagayancillo, Palawan. Some 90 percent of the island's population lives below poverty level.

Around 40 percent of Cagayancillo residents derive their incomes purely from seaweed farming. Another 30 percent get their income from both fishing and seaweed farming.

Carceller revealed that income from seaweed farming has dropped drastically this year because of widespread use of cyanide in fishing.

From the average income of P10,000 every three months last year, seaweed farmers now barely earn P2,000 every three months.

And the residents can no longer allow further decrease in their income with the illegal competition and destructive fishing means being used by the foreign fishermen.

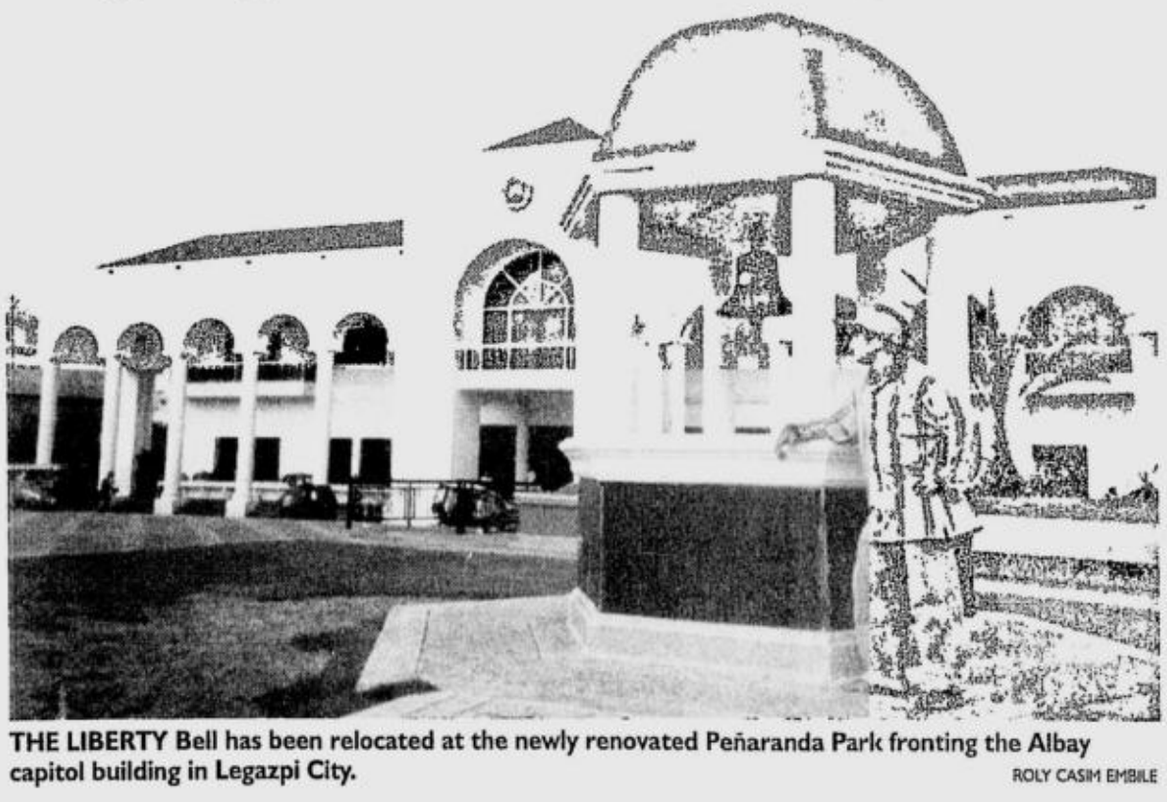
They have started to put a check on this threat to their survival with the May 12 apprehension of 17 Chinese poachers and they will not hesitate to do it again with any foreigner who would dare to encroach on their territory. They have the full backing of the local government authorities and the KKP personnel.

"We would not be able to apprehend the Chinese fishermen were it not for the presence of KKP personnel and their boat, who were then conducting research and coral reef monitoring in Cagayancillo," Carceller said.

The mayor, however, complained of the delay in the prosecution of the poaching case against the Chinese fishermen.

Carceller is worried that with the frequent bad weather, the witnesses from their town would not be able to travel 178 nautical miles to Puerto Princesa just to testify.

Legazpi City's Liberty Bell also rings for peace, justice



THE LIBERTY Bell has been relocated at the newly renovated Peñaranda Park fronting the Albay capitol building in Legazpi City. ROLY CASIM EMBILE

By Roly Casim Embile
Legazpi City

WHEN the Kimura detachment of the Japanese Imperial Forces in Legazpi City finally surrendered to the Filipino-American troops in the waning period of World War II in the Pacific, one of the first acts of the American forces was to dedicate on April 1, 1945 a bell to commemorate the city's liberation.

It was initially named the Liberty Bell.

A seven-foot-high concrete dome was built to house the bell at the Peñaranda Park, a virtual island bounded by the Legazpi City Hall, the St. Gregory the Great Cathedral, the city police headquarters and the Albay Capitol. These days, the barely readable dedication etched near the base on the concrete dome housing the 16-inch-high brass bell calls for freedom-loving people to ring the bell when oppression knocks on their door.

The city government included this monument among its primary historical landmarks and tourist attractions.

Neglect

But several city residents, including those living near the Peñaranda Park at the Old Albay District said they know nothing about the belfry nestled near the monument of Albay founder Jose Maria Peñaranda.

Both structures, listed in travel brochures as among Bicol's historical monuments, remained anonymous and hidden under giant dapdap trees, unlighted at night and its plaster flaking. The Liberty Bell and the Peñaranda Monument even became the favorite comfort rooms for male promenaders.

The local media took notice and began pestering officials to do something to honor the historical markers.

Among the groups that initiated a campaign in 1995 to rehabilitate the Freedom Bell and the Peñaranda monument was the Albay-Legazpi Press Association (ALPA) Inc. The media group made representations with the offices of Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara and Mayor Imelda Roces which rehabilitated the structures.

Despite the rehabilitation, however, the two structures remained unnoticed and the stench of urine and the litter of plastic garbage barely diminished even with the presence of policemen assigned to watch over them.

First ring

A senior resident at the Old Albay District said an unnamed former Japanese soldier, a Korean conscript from Okinawa, first rang the bell a few years after liberation when he was being persecuted by the Americans and Filipinos whose painful memories of Japanese abuses were still fresh.

Mel Noya, a former radio broadcaster and retired official of the Development Bank of the Philippines now working as executive assistant at the Albay Capitol, said he remembers Herculano Pareja as having tolled the bell in 1948.

"Pareja, then the mayor (of then Municipio de Albay), was forced out of his office and replaced by one Jose Arboleda as the new mayor by virtue of a newly passed law creating the City of Legazpi. This so angered Pareja that he crossed over from the city hall to the Peñaranda Park and rang the bell in protest," said Noya.

Official records showed that Republic Act No. 306 was passed by the Philippine Assembly in June 18, 1948 and proclaimed in December of the same year, creating Legazpi City and effectively abolishing the Municipio de Albay.

Clamor for justice

At the height of the nationwide protests against the Marcos dictatorship in the '80s, the Freedom Bell was time and again pealed by demonstrators clamoring for justice and an end to government oppression.

Some of those who repeatedly rang the bell claimed they did so to annoy the policemen and military troops stationed at the police headquarters just across the street.

In 1998, the officers and members of the ALPA pealed the bell during a candle-lit prayer vigil in search of justice for the gruesome killing of former GMA television broadcaster Joy Militante. The case remains unsolved to this day.

Last year, with the relentless killings of policemen, military personnel and some civilian government officials and rising criminality in the Bicol Region, the local peace and order council organized a mammoth peace caravan and rally.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators, among them friends and relatives of the slain victims, converged at the Peñaranda Park. Among the highlights of the program was the ringing of the Liberty Bell by Bichara.

Even Bichara intimated that he had not fully understood the significance of the bell until the ALPA emphasized its importance as a rallying point for those in search of justice and peace.

Ringing witness

Today, the Freedom Bell hangs inside a completely new belfry built bigger with stonewashed and Italian tile finish, surrounded by beige stonewashed promenade and accentuated by manicured carpet grass.

It has been transferred at one of the most prominent sites across the fully renovated Peñaranda Park.

It is that corner nearest the provincial capitol building across the street directly opposite the balcony outside the governor's second floor office—as witness to the life and times of a people who will approach it to toll in times of oppression.

3 attackers of Pakistan school blow selves up

From page A1

if his companion was not released.

Police said the men told them that, "We are not your enemy. We are the ones who killed the nonbelievers in Murree."

Police agreed to release the three men who then began running toward the nearby Jhelum River. Suddenly, a grenade exploded, according to the policemen. Two of the men were blasted into the river, but the body of the third was recovered on the riverbank.

Similar clothing

A police photo of the body showed the partially disfigured man wearing blue pants and a white shirt, clothing similar to those worn by the attackers of the Murree Christian School.

Hussain told AP that the two other men were dressed in similar clothing.

He said the exploded grenade was of the same make as the unexploded ones recovered at the school.

No group has formally claimed responsibility for the bloody raid on the Christian school, but police said a note left at the scene indicated the attack was in revenge for the ill-treatment of Muslims in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

"There was a note in the bag, which referred to things happening to Muslims in Afghanistan and other parts of the world," Police Supt. Moravet Ali Shah told Reuters.

The same note warned that the assailants "will do more in the future to avenge what is being done by infidels with Muslims all over the world," according to a Pakistani military intelligence officer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Officials and diplomats believed Monday's attack was a strike against Western interests rather than a religiously motivated attack on minority faiths.

It was the latest assault on a foreign target in Pakistan since the military government of Gen. Pervez Musharraf incensed militant Muslim groups by siding with the US-led war on terrorism after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

None of the pupils or the 30-35 member foreign staff was hurt.

Disgraceful act

Justice Minister Khalid Ranjha earlier told Reuters in Jhika Gali that the attack had been "a disgraceful act" aimed at destabilizing Pakistan.

"It was not anti-Christian, but geo-political," he said.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Israr Ahmad said there was no doubt the attack was aimed at foreigners.

"Foreigners were the target because this is a school where only foreigners study," Ahmad said, adding it was intended to "undermine the prestige of Pakistan abroad."

A Western diplomat in Islamabad agreed. "It does fall into a pattern, unfortunately. It's not good news, it appears to be one of a series and one has to wonder how far it will go."

Recent attacks on foreigners have included a car bomb that killed 11 French engineers and three Pakistanis in the southern city of Karachi on May 8, and another blast outside the US Consulate on June 14 that killed 12 Pakistanis and wounded 20 others.

The school shooting was at least the third attack in less than a year on a Christian target.

In March, a grenade attack on the Protestant International Church in Islamabad killed five people, including the wife and daughter of a US diplomat. Sixteen Pakistani Christians and a Muslim were killed in a church in Punjab province last October.

Guards praised

School director Russell Morton paid tribute to the five security guards who returned fire and forced the attackers away from classrooms filled with children aged from 6 to 18.

"It's likely the attack failed to the extent that it did because security people on duty here harried them across the campus to the far end where there were fewer people," he said.

Morton said both children and staff at Murree were "very traumatized."

The children included one who had been in the church in Islamabad when the grenades were thrown in March.

"So you have kids who have just finished coping with something like that and it's been reopened," he said.

The school, which was founded in 1956 to educate children of missionaries in South Asia, shut down soon after the Sept. 11 attacks but reopened in February.

It is located near Murree, a resort town in the Himalayan foothills about 56 km northeast of Islamabad. ***Reports from AP and Reuters***

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ORIGIN: MANILA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
CEBU	5J - 557	Daily	DC9	0130	0240	P2,899	P2,569	P1,999	P1,849
	5J - 559	Daily	DC9	0500	0610				
	5J - 561	Daily	DC9	0700	0810			-	
	5J - 563	Daily	DC9	0900	1010			-	
	5J - 565	Daily	DC9	1100	1210			-	
	5J - 567	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			-	
	5J - 569	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			-	
	5J - 571	Daily	DC9	1700	1810			-	
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	DC9	0500	0640	P3,667	P3,239	P2,288	P2,288
	5J - 963	W/Sat	DC9	0930	1110				
	5J - 963	M/T/Th/F/Su	B757*	0930	1110	P4,039	P3,839	P3,667	-
	5J - 965	Daily	DC9	1320	1500	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,288
*Cebu Class Available	5J - 967	Daily	DC9	1600	1740			P2,288	
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	DC9	0510	0635	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699	P2,349
	5J - 383	Daily	DC9	0930	1055				
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	DC9	0610	0720	P2,899	P2,569	-	P1,999
	5J - 655	Daily	DC9	1210	1320			-	
	5J - 657	Sun	DC9	1410	1520			-	
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	DC9	0500	0600	P2,779	P2,449	P1,649	P1,599
	5J - 455	Daily	DC9	0955	1055			-	
	5J - 459	Daily	DC9	1600	1700			-	
BACOLOD	5J - 473	Daily	DC9	0510	0610	P2,779	P2,449	-	P1,799
	5J - 475	Daily	DC9	1000	1100			-	
	5J - 479	Daily	DC9	1650	1750			-	
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	DC9	0620	0750	P3,667	P3,239	P2,079	-
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	DC9	0530	0630	P2,539	P2,199	-	P1,799
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	DC9	1340	1450	P2,899	P2,569	P1,799	-
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	DC9	0900	0950	P2,899	P2,569	-	P1,999
BUTUAN	5J - 787	Daily	DC9	1050	1215	P3,645	P3,239	-	P2,349

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	DC9	0430	0540	P2,899	P2,569	P1,999	P1,849
	5J - 560	Daily	DC9	0700	0810			-	
	5J - 562	Daily	DC9	0900	1010			-	
	5J - 564	Daily	DC9	1100	1210			-	
	5J - 566	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			-	
	5J - 568	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			-	
	5J - 570	Daily	DC9	1700	1810			-	
	5J - 572	Daily	DC9	1900	2010			P1,999	
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	DC9	0800	0850	P2,589	P2,249	P1,945	P1,649
	5J - 597	Daily	DC9	1450	1540				
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	Fri/Sun	DC9	1005	1100	P2,649	P2,319	-	P1,969
	5J - 433	M/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1100	1155				
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	DC9	1750	1825	P2,099	P1,759	P1,495	P1,249
BACOLOD	5J - 126	Daily	DC9	0810	0840	P1,879	P1,539	P1,295	P 999
CLARK	5J - 588	Tu/F/Sun	DC9	1100	1220	P2,995	P2,669	-	P2,199

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	DC9	0720	0900	P3,667	P3,239	P2,288	P2,288
	5J - 964	W/Sat	DC9	1210	1350				
	5J - 964	M/T/Th/F/Su	B757*	1210	1350	P4,039	P3,839	P3,667	-
	5J - 966	Daily	DC9	1540	1720	P3,667	P3,239	-	-
*Cebu Class Available	5J - 968	Daily	DC9	1820	2000			P2,288	P2,288
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	DC9	0930	1020	P2,589	P2,249	P1,945	P1,649
	5J - 598	Daily	DC9	1620	1710				
ILOILO --via Cebu	5J - 598/164	Daily	DC9	1620	1825	P3,645	P3,195	P2,595	P2,199
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	M/T/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1010	1110	P2,649	P2,319	-	P2,049

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	DC9	1530	1640	P2,899	P2,569	P1,799	-

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 474	Daily	DC9	0920	1020	P2,779	P2,449	-	P1,799
	5J - 476	Daily	DC9	1150	1250				
	5J - 480	Daily	DC9	1840	1940				
CEBU	5J - 125	Daily	DC9	0700	0730	P1,879	P1,539	P1,295	P 999

ORIGIN: BUTUAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 788	Daily	DC9	1255	1420	P3,645	P3,239	P2,349

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 456	Daily	DC9	1135	1235	P2,779	P2,449	-	P1,599
	5J - 460	Daily	DC9	1740	1840			-	
	5J - 462	Daily	DC9	1905	2005			P1,649	
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	DC9	0640	0715	P2,099	P1,759	P1,495	P1,249
DAVAO --via Cebu	5J - 161/593	Daily	DC9	0640	0850	P3,645	P3,195	P2,595	P2,199

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	DC9	0800	0910	P2,899	P2,569	P1,999
	5J - 656	Daily	DC9	1400	1510			
	5J - 658	Sun	DC9	1600	1710			

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	DC9	1150	1320	P3,667	P3,239	P2,079	-
CEBU	5J - 432	Fri/ Sun	DC9	0830	0925	P2,649	P2,319	-	P1,969
	5J - 434	M/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1235	1330			-	
DAVAO	5J - 394	M/T/W/Th/Sat	DC9	0830	0930	P2,649	P2,319		P2,049

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	DC9	0715	0840	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699	P2,349
	5J - 384	Daily	DC9	1135	1300				

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	DC9	0710	0810	P2,539	P2,199	P1,799

ORIGIN: CLARK

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
CEBU	5J - 589	Tu/F/Sun	DC9	1300	1420	P2,995	P2,669	P2,199

ORIGIN: KALIBO

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Gov't, Reds soften talk of all-out war

From page A1

ment to the imperialist corporate vultures."

Sison had issued the statement in response to what he called President Macapagal's declaration of all-out war on communist guerrillas.

The President on Monday had ordered the military to shift its focus from the Abu Sayyaf to the NPA and transfer troops from Basilan and Sulu, strongholds of the bandit group, to areas where the NPA is operating.

"My press statement was neither an order nor a call to action binding to the New People's Army. The collective organs of leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines, NPA and National Democratic Front (NDF), which are based in the Philippines, make the decisions and the effective calls to action," Sison, who is based in The Netherlands, said yesterday.

He said his Aug. 6 press statement was only an "analytical piece, with the purpose of demonstrating to Ms Macapagal a possible dialectical chain of events that can follow from her all-out war policy."

"I was simply reminding her that the civil war in the Philippines is two-sided," Sison, founding chair of the CPP, said in an e-mail sent to the INQUIRER in Lucena City.

Sison's toned down warmongering was reciprocated by the government.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said Sison, whom he described as a good "communist propagandist," merely imagined that the Macapagal administration would be waging "total war."

The administration has adopted a "wholistic" approach to insurgency, according to Reyes.

"We said that while we would go after the insurgents, there would be a strong social, economic, political component to address the threat. So it's not true that it is an all-out war. That is the statement of Sison to give the impression that the government is waging all-out war and that more human rights will be violated," the defense secretary said.

'Urong-sulong'

Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, head of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Unified Command, taunted Sison for making the clarification. "Is Joma playing chess? *Urong-sulong siya,*" Kyamko said.

Sison said power outages could be fixed within a day or so, "but will certainly demonstrate the inability of President Macapagal to govern and might compel her to order her soldiers to guard the electric towers and lines rather than make a big force for killing people."

He pointed out that even if the NPA hit power installations repeatedly, it would not cause as much damage to the economy as Macapagal has already done by upholding the IPP deals which led to higher power rates and by engaging in so many types of graft and corruption.

"The NPA might just cause the outages to demonstrate the inability of Macapagal to govern and the incompetence of her soldiers at guarding power lines," he said.

Sison said hitting electric towers and lines could be done safely for the people. "It is entirely different from the massacres committed by the United States and puppet troops against the people in many parts of the world," he said.

Spare people

In the Senate, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta appealed to Sison to spare government installations, including electrical towers of the National Power Corp. Sison should spare the people from further woes in the form of crippling brownouts.

She said attacks on the Napocor's transmission towers would not affect the NPA's intended victims—Malacañang and the military—as much as these would hurt the ordinary people.

"We hope that Joma Sison will reconsider his order and think of the greater interest of the people, who will be most adversely affected by these planned communist attacks that can touch off crippling power outages," she said.

Sen. Rodoldo Biazon said blowing up Napocor lines and other economic infrastructure would cause widespread suffering among workers and farmers because jobs would be lost and productivity in rural areas affected.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, chair of the Senate committee on defense and national security, said "peace negotiations, no matter how difficult," were the answer to insurgency in the country, not all-out war on the NPA.

Magsaysay recalled that his father, the late President Ramon Magsaysay, pursued the path of peace through social justice and economic opportunities for the people, particularly those in the rural areas.

"It is high time that our government showed genuine efforts to pursue peace for the sake of the country's poor whose lives the administration vows to uplift," he said.

House Assistant Minority Leader Abraham Mitra also appealed to the government and the National Democratic Front, an umbrella organization that includes the CPP, to go back to the negotiating table.

Mitra said that a full-scale war against communist rebels could drive away investors and tourists.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. expressed the hope that a peace agreement could still be sealed. He said local communist commanders wanted a peace settlement but the Utrecht-based NDF leaders did not want it because it would make them irrelevant.

Ceasefire

Zambales Rep. Ruben Torres, who served as an emissary of former President Ramos to the NDF in 1996, said a ceasefire was necessary to save the peace talks.

"If you are doing peace talks, the armed action should stop," Torres said. "No party will go back to the negotiating table if they keep stabbing each other in the back," he added.

But Luis Jalandoni, NDF chief peace negotiator, declared that the President's "all-out war policy destroys any possibility for genuine peace talks, that is, peace talks that address the root causes of the 33-year-old armed conflict in the Philippines." ***With reports from Juliet L. Javelana and Cynthia D. Balana***

Something fishy here, says Pimentel

THERE'S something fishy about the government's declaration of all-out war against the communist rebels, according to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Pimentel said yesterday over the Cebu-based radio station dyLA that some defense officials might have a hidden agenda in the renewed offensive against the New People's Army.

He said some defense officials might just want to have a big budget for the Department of National Defense especially that Congress was discussing the budget allocations for the different departments.

With the problem of the Abu Sayyaf partially solved, Pimentel said the DND officials wanted to focus their attention on the NPA so they would still be given importance and a wider role in the country's security.

"If they have no enemies to fight, they would not be given a big budget," he said. ***Reports from Jhunnex Napallacan and Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Rebecca, Adelina coming home for good

From page A1

Bansud and Adelina's hometown of Minalin in Pampanga.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas yesterday said the families of the two women would get P200,000 in financial assistance from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

She said the Owwa board of trustees had decided to give the amount on top of the usual benefits to reward the two women for their persistence and determination to provide a better life for their families despite the dangers of working in a country like war-torn Israel.

In a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippine Embassy in Israel said the two caskets were "hermetically sealed."

The embassy gave a "strict" instruction that the caskets were not to be opened even during the wake and burial to spare the families, according to Delmer Cruz, Owwa deputy administrator.

Adelina was a documented worker but Rebecca was not. She went to Israel as an "escorted tourist" but managed to find a job through her sister Febe, Cruz said.

GMA's visit

In Minalin, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday met with Adelina's family.

She arrived at 11:30 a.m. at the still flooded San Francisco de Javier chapel, where she talked with Adelina's parents, Pablo Sr. and Inez Lagunilla, for 30 minutes.

She embraced Inez, who poured out her grief, and now and then held the hand of a tearful Pablo Sr.

Speaking in Kapampangan, the President asked the Lagunillas what they needed. Inez said her husband would need money for his medicines now that Adelina, the family's breadwinner, was gone.

The President gave them a white envelope containing P50,000. She told them that Owwa would give them P200,000 as burial assistance, and that Adelina's immediate family would receive livelihood assistance as well.

Ms Macapagal later told reporters that "more" Filipino workers in Israel were coming back as a result of the suicide bombings there.

There is no policy ordering the return of some 30,000 Filipino workers in Israel, but the President said Foreign Secretary Blas Ople would "determine when it is mandatory for them to come back."

The Lagunillas' neighbors took advantage of Ms Macapagal's visit to ask her to facilitate the repair of their road.

"Madam, madam, *pantambak po* (please give us road fillings)," they said.

The President smiled but did not answer.

Safety measures

Recruiters deploying Filipinos to Israel are urging their clients to stay indoors and observe safety measures there. Ramon Estrella Sr., president of the United Philippine Manpower Agencies for Israel Association, called on the group's 50 member-agencies to coordinate with their counterparts in Israel for contingency plans for Filipino workers.

In a statement, Estrella also urged the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to stress the safety tips in the predeparture orientation given the licensed workers.

"Take the taxi," he urged the Filipino workers, who usually take the bus or shuttle to their employers' homes.

Like Rebecca Ruga and Adelina Cunanan, most of the Filipino workers in Israel are caregivers.

Owwa, which will shoulder the repatriation costs, earlier said the families of the two victims would get P7,500 in financial assistance, P10,000 in burial aid, a scholarship for one dependent, and access to a livelihood loan.

Sto. Tomas said the additional P200,000 financial assistance should help cushion the economic effect of the death of the two women on their dependents.

The recruiters' association also expressed willingness to send one relative of any of the two victims to work in Israel.

The Israeli government was said to have assured the DFA that it would shoulder the repatriation of the bodies, the transport to the provinces and burial expenses despite Rebecca being an "undocumented" worker.

Philippine Airlines chair Lucio Tan also offered to assist in the repatriation, according to a PAL statement.

"In times of tragedy like this, PAL stands ready to help our countrymen wherever they may be. This is part of our duty as the nation's flag carrier," the statement quoted Tan as saying.

6 months

In Bansud, Rosario Ruga said Rebecca and husband Pepito Santos, 68, jobless and a diabetic, had been living for 18 years in a rented house in Baclaran.

Last year, she went to Israel to work as caregiver. She wanted to help her 3-year-old nephew Leonard, Febe's only son, who was afflicted with a congenital heart disease.

Febe had been working in Israel as a caregiver for two-and-half-years before Rebecca joined her. Febe's earnings were not enough to fund her son's surgery.

Rebecca sent financial support to their family, too.

On Rebecca's sixth month in Israel, Santos died from diabetes complications. But she wasn't able to go home to bury her husband as she had no money to spend.

Six months later, she was killed in the suicide bombing.

Rosario said Rebecca's remains would be buried in the Bongabong public cemetery near her father's grave. ***With a report from Christine Herrera in Manila***

BREWING is another sexual harassment case involving the Dusit Hotel general manager, a Japanese national, accused by a Filipina working in the hotel spa. Members of Makalaya stage a protest rally on Wednesday. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'She must be hallucinating'

From page A1

engaged in a struggle with current officials of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. for control of the company.

"It seems weird that this story suddenly comes out. The timing is very much off. I believe this employee has not been a part of the company for over a year now. Why did this issue come out just now?" he said in a telephone interview yesterday.

He hinted that the issue could be part of a "demolition job" on the Gokongwei family to discredit them.

"A lot has been happening lately and there have been a lot of low blows. But this one is really low," he said.

"The allegation of (Soriano) that both respondent Eric Severino and I committed acts of lasciviousness against her, as if we are competing against each other for her affection, is impossible," Go told the INQUIRER.

Severino, on the other hand, claimed that "money is the real motive that drives the complainant to pursue this case," prompting her to resort to "extra-legal means to settle the case."

He related that he had received an offer from a certain Reynaldo de Jesus of the Movement against Sexual Harassment for him to testify against Go and by doing so, compel Go to settle the case.

In separate counter-affidavits they filed on Tuesday, Go and Severino asked Quezon City Assistant Prosecutor Dindo Venturanza to dismiss Soriano's case against them.

Soriano had also filed a complaint against Go and Severino with the Quezon City prosecutor.

NBI partial to accuser

They both maintained that the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), which recommended the filing of the case, had been partial to Soriano as she allegedly failed to base her claims on solid evidence.

"The NBI literally coddled the complainant like a lost child, but a lost child she is not. She is not even a child. Complainant (was) a 49-year-old grandmother at the time the alleged sexual advances took place," Go said.

He claimed that he only got to see Soriano during company-related activities, where the presence of many employees made any indecent advances or sexual harassment impossible to be committed.

"Yet, (the) complainant could not come up with a single witness or any evidence that would corroborate her allegations," he said.

Cordial resignation letter

Go also was curious why Soriano filed the case only recently, when the alleged acts of lasciviousness started in January 1999.

He further reasoned that it was impossible that Soriano, who had thanked Severino "for the opportunity of working with you" when she resigned from Digitel in June 2000, came up with "such a cordial resignation letter" if her allegations against her employers were true.

Severino, on the other hand, belied the NBI report saying Soriano had been "an exemplary employee of Digitel during her first year with the company but was subsequently deprived of promotion and eased out of employment by being forced to resign due to her refusal to reciprocate (my) sexual advances."

Severino admitted that Soriano displayed above average performance during her first year with Digitel. But he maintained that this was only normal because she was then going through her probationary employment period, where a poor performance would affect her regularization.

Not model employee

He also said that Soriano's Staff Performance and Development Reviews (SPDR) would show that she was "not a model employee," lacking in the required human relation skills.

Severino noted that Soriano's SPDR for April 1999 to April 2000 showed that she "works way into the evening regularly."

He said it was "highly irrational" that Soriano would still prefer to work at night, when she should have been afraid of her supposed harassers and of situations "that would expose her to greater danger."

Both Go and Severino presented the result of a psychological evaluation test done on Soriano in November 2000 which showed that she was suffering from "narcissistic/borderline personality disorder with compulsive and histrionic features."

According to the Digitel executives, Soriano's "weak psychological disposition," not their alleged sexual advances against her, was the reason she had suffered from an emotional breakdown.

Former marketing exec seeks ₱25M in damages

From page A1

against Go and Severino for acts of lasciviousness with the Quezon City prosecutor. The complaint was filed at the NLRC last April.

Wooing

Soriano said that Go had touched her private parts during company gatherings and tried to woo her affections with promises of a promotion while Severino encouraged her to accommodate Go's advances.

"Do not resist me. I can make life in Digitel easy for you. I can take care of your promotions and give you rewards," Soriano quoted Go as telling her as he forced her to dance in a party.

Soriano said that Severino started to humiliate her in business meetings upon learning that she continued to resist Go's amorous advances. Severino also allegedly accused her of trying to make him appear incompetent before Go.

In one altercation on June 27, 2000, Soriano said that Severino dared her to resign if she could not work under the hostile conditions. She quit the firm and remains unemployed to date.

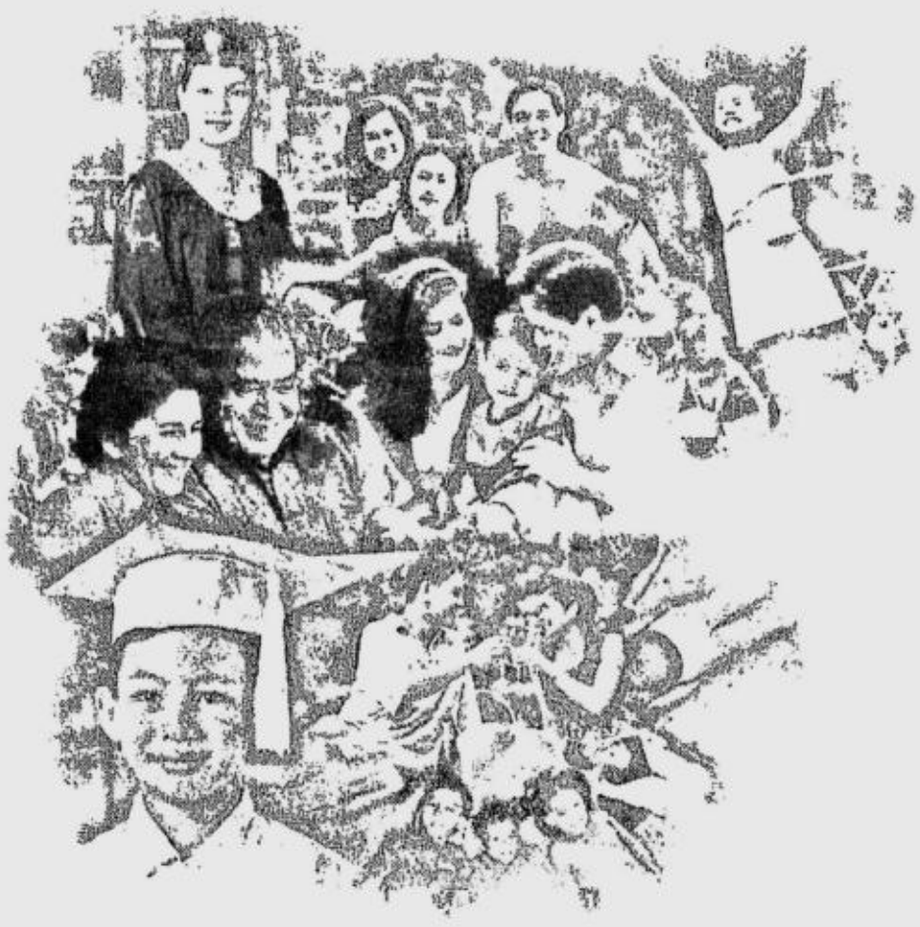
Nervous breakdown

She has been under treatment due to depression and nervous breakdown months after she lost her job.

Soriano is seeking P20 million in moral and exemplary damages; P44,000 in actual damages; back wages worth P82,350 a month; P41,117.50 for every 15 days of accrued vacation and sick leave credits; P41,117.50 as 13th month pay; P164,450 as separation pay; P20,000 for litigation expenses; cost of suit and attorney's fees, all with interest.

Soriano's complaint has been with the NLRC since April, but arbiter Lucrecia Alconcel has yet to decide on the case. Severino has left Digitel and is now with Oracle Systems Inc.

Both parties tried to settle the issue amicably last year, but Go's offer of compensation and severance pay, as well as reimbursement for medication expenses, were much lower than Soriano's damage claims.



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ASEAN WRESTLING

Delos Santos wins twice, eyes silver

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PAULO Delos Santos defeated an Indonesian and a fellow Filipino yesterday to assure himself of at least a bronze medal at the start of the Southeast Asian Wrestling Championships at the Badminton Hall of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Delos Santos' victories over Hermansyan Ke on superiority and countryman Roy Camposano on points also enabled the country to match defending champion Vietnam's strong start in the six-nation tourney.

The Filipino's triumphs came in the 51-kg category of the Greco Roman.

Two other Filipinos also posted impressive victories to keep their medal chances alive even as defending champion Vietnam also sent two wrestlers into the next round.

Marcus Araneta Valda, who is one of the favorites, quickly disposed of Philippine Team B's Roy Torres on superiority in the 96-kg category, while Filipino Wilfredo Mendez outclassed Khom Ratakmony of Cambodia in the 55 kg event.

But RP's Renerio Rapisora succumbed to Vietnamese Dang Dinn Hue, who went on to beat Thailand's Jirawat Vichien to keep abreast with Delos Santos in the quarterfinals.

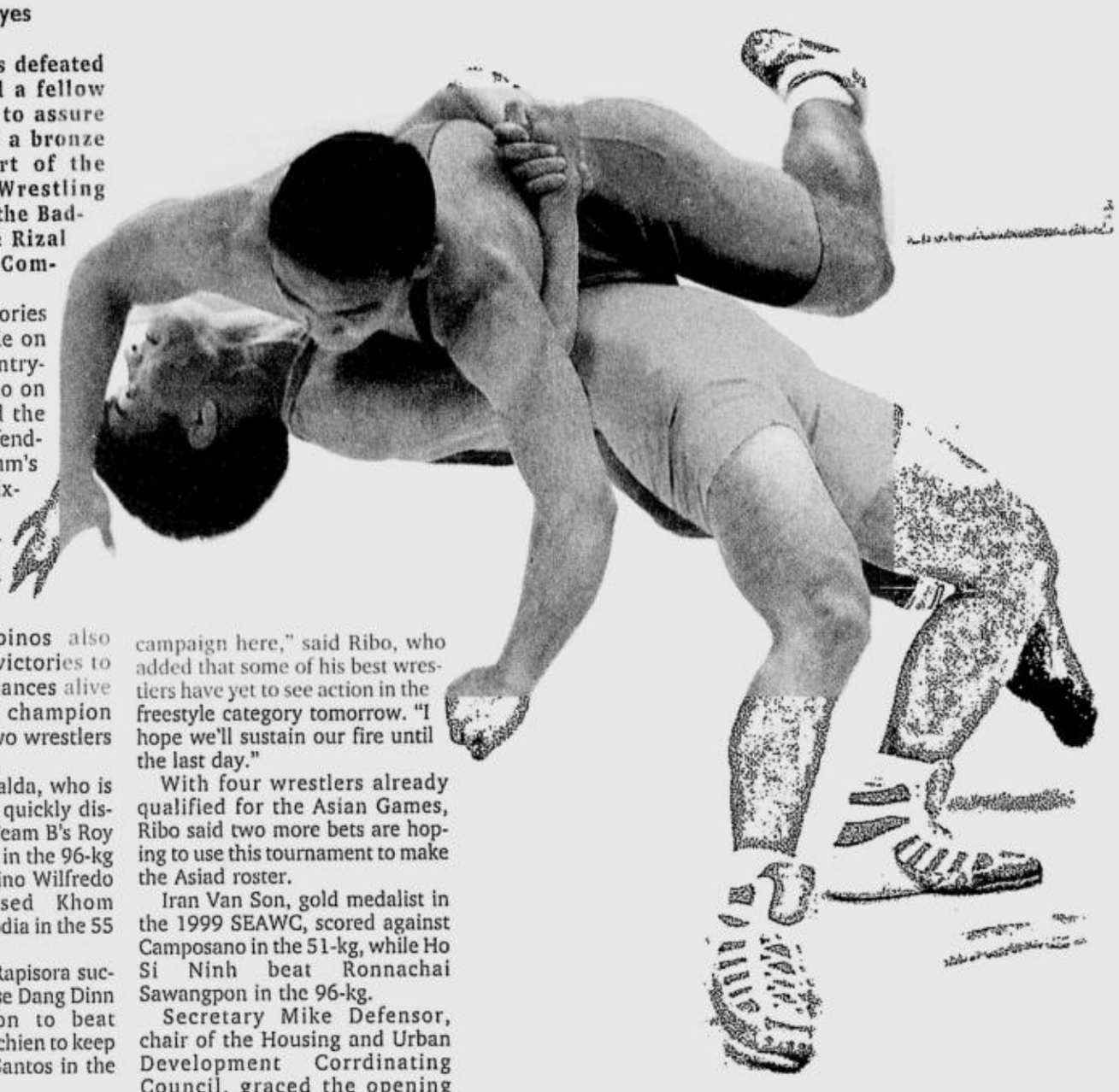
Wrestling Association of the Philippines president retired Gen. Manuel Ribo expressed delight over the Philippines' strong start.

"This should jump start our campaign here," said Ribo, who added that some of his best wrestlers have yet to see action in the freestyle category tomorrow. "I hope we'll sustain our fire until the last day."

With four wrestlers already qualified for the Asian Games, Ribo said two more bets are hoping to use this tournament to make the Asiad roster.

Iran Van Son, gold medalist in the 1999 SEAWC, scored against Camposano in the 51-kg, while Ho Si Ninh beat Ronnachai Sawangpon in the 96-kg.

Secretary Mike Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Corrdinating Council, graced the opening rites along with Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and Southeast Asian Wrestling Federation vice president Mohamad Ghalib.



VIETNAM'S Dang Dinh Hue (in red) prepares to pin Thailand's Jirawat Vichien down during their 55-kg match in yesterday's Southeast Asian Wrestling Championships at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. Hue won by superiority. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Cruz, Geisler ready for Asiad taekwondo

SIX-TIME Southeast Asian Games champion Roberto Cruz and fellow Sydney Olympian Donald Geisler III showed their readiness for the coming Busan Asian Games by keeping their respective titles in the Milo national taekwondo championship recently at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Cruz beat Angelito Ong to bag the finweight gold medal while Geisler outfought Ernesto Mendoza to take the welter gold in the senior competition. Other rated senior jins like fly Tshomlee Go, bantam Manuel Rivero Jr., feather Jeferthom Go, middle Dindo Simpao, fin Daleen Cordero, bantam Eufreshnee Catalan and welter Veronica Domingo also triumphed. Tshomlee Go topped Gerald Gregoiro, Rivero beat Andre Ablaza, Jeferthom Go whipped Rodolfo Valenzuela, Simpao rapped Willy Ngo, Cordero toppled Johanna Salvania, Catalan tripped Aileen Embay and Domingo spilled Imee Esternon.

Bustamante chosen Busan standard bearer

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante, rated as one of the world's top billiards players, has been named standard bearer of the Philippine delegation to the Asian Games in Busan on Sept. 29 to Oct. 14 this year.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Cito Dayrit announced Django's selection yesterday after consulting with RP delegation chief of mission Tom Carrasco, the POC executive board members and BSCP president Ernesto Fajardo.

"It is only fitting that we reward Django (Bustamante) for his sterling performance in the recent world pool championship in Cardiff, Wales, by letting him carry the (Philippine) flag in Busan," Dayrit said.

BUSTAMANTE

The 38-year-old Bustamante finished second to American Earl Strickland in the Cardiff tournament, losing 15-17 in the finals where he played in grief because of the death of his 6-month-old daughter.

When contacted in Virginia (USA) where he is playing in the Peninsula 9-ball Open together with another great Filipino player, Efren "Bata" Reyes, Django could only say "I am greatly honored."

Bustamante was named Player of the Year by the US magazine Billiards Digest in 1998 and earned the same honor from the Philippine Sportswriters Association a year later.

Among his major titles were the Japan Open, where he routed Ralf Souquet, 9-0, in the finals, the IBC World Tour in Munich, Germany, the 2002 Motolite World 9-ball Challenge at the Araneta Coliseum where he whipped American Corey Deuel, 13-8, in the finals, the World Pool Masters in Essex (UK) where he nipped Strickland, 7-6, in the finals, and the 1998 Tulsa 9-ball Open in Oklahoma.

A member of the Puyat Sports team, Bustamante also finished second in the World Pool League in Warsaw, Poland and third in the world pool championship in Cardiff in 1999.

Pacquiao to get ₱8M for 2nd defense; champion drops 'charges' versus Elorde

PACQUIAO

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WORLD boxing champion Manny Pacquiao is set to defend his International Boxing Federation junior featherweight crown on Oct. 19 in Davao City.

This came about after Pacquiao's manager Rod Nazario and fight organizer Gov. Manny Piñol of North Cotabato cemented yesterday the mechanics of the fight in Davao City.

Nazario told the Inquirer that Pacquiao approved to slash his purse from P10 million to P8 million just so the fight can be held in the Philippines, marking the second time that the champion was to defend a world title in the country.

Pacquiao, who knocked out Gabriel Mira while defending his world flyweight crown on April 25, 1999 at the Araneta Coliseum, will fight No. 4 contender Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym of Thailand in the Davao capital.

Pacquiao lost his flyweight title when he failed to make the weight in a succeeding defense just months after he kayoed Mira.

"It's going to be a big homecourt advantage for us," said Nazario, who forged the deal with Piñol yesterday. "Manny will surely have everyone rooting for him. We are all very excited over this development."

The fight, moved to October from Sept. 21 to give way to the country's campaign in the Asian Games in Busan set from Sept. 29 to Oct. 14, will be held at the Davao Agricultural and Industrial College gym.

Nazario also said Pacquiao is set to withdraw today all his charges against manager Marty Elorde at the Games and Amusements Board.

Nazario said he will personally accompany Pacquiao to GAB chair Eduardo Villanueva, who called today's meeting to settle the discord among Pacquiao, Nazario and Elorde.

The hearing has been rendered moot and academic after Pacquiao and Elorde kissed and made up in a meeting brokered last week in Davao City.

Pacquiao won't answer his cell phone when the Inquirer tried to get in touch with him.

Elorde, son of the great Gabriel Flash Elorde, said he will send his uncle Jun Sarreal to represent him in today's meeting.

Marty had earlier been reported fired as Pacquiao's business manager. Pacquiao had denied having signed a document to that effect. The "word war" between Pacquiao and Nazario ended when Piñol entered the picture.

Elorde is Pacquiao's manager up to 2005.

Tradition is August Fore! trademark

A TRADITION continues as the sixth edition of the August Fore! Invitational golf tournament tees off tomorrow at Wack Wack West. Tee-off time is 7:30 a.m.

Tournament host Bimbo Salazar, Rotary International Past District Governor and currently a member of the Monetary Board, will be joined by heads and representatives of companies who are again supporting his charity project organized by the Rotary of Diliman.

The major sponsors are Portals and San Miguel Corporation, Cleitsmann Security Inko Cmbh, International Chemicals Corp., Guard All Electronics Security System, Zuellig Corp., Star Paper Corp., Bingo Bonanza and Urban Escape Day Spa.

To benefit from the tourney are the annual Rotarympics for the disabled, Rotary's medical center for indigents and The Tib-Ong Foundation's scholarship grants for the poor in Bacolod, among others. For particulars please contact the tournament director at 435-1943 or 433-0782.

Jong Arcano

Surprise door prizes await Callaway golf equipment buyers

ELECTROBUS Consolidated Inc., the exclusive Philippine distributor of Callaway, yesterday announced a special promo on its driver and woods.

Every purchase of either an ERC Driver or Fairway wood entitles a buyer to a dozen HX 2-piece golf balls and an ERC II Staff Bag for free.

"The promo is good only while supply lasts," said Glenn Baroma of Eletrobus.

Participating shops are ECI Branches in Panay, Shangri-La and Adamson Center, Ball & Turf-Angeles, Bravo Golf, The Golf Clinic, Golf Deport and Las Vegas and Tennis-Clark.

For other details, call 371-1571 or 374-5037.

Jong Arcano

Pedro Muryoti's sensible solution to Ateneo-La Salle game

HOW come tickets to the Ateneo-La Salle game on Saturday have become as scarce as jobs in the metropolis?

Friends of mine have been calling me since last week, inquiring why they couldn't find tickets to the game set at the Araneta Coliseum.

I inquired. I discovered that tickets had been sold out as early as last week yet—bought in bulk, I surmise, by alumni of Ateneo and La Salle. I'm not surprised. They've been doing that for ages.

Do you know that proceeds from games between Ateneo and La Salle virtually shoulder the expenses of UAAP tournaments, year in and year out?

From what I gathered from Pedro Muryoti, my newest legman, a ticket priced at P100 (Upper Box A) for Saturday's game costs P3,000 in the black market. If true, I couldn't care less. Suckers are born every minute *di ba*?

For the record, a patron ticket at the Big Dome for UAAP games costs P200, P150 lower box, P50 Upper Box-B and P20 general admission.

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I gathered from an Araneta Coliseum spokesman yesterday that UAAP officials had collared 9,815 tickets as early as two weeks ago. Breakdown: 1,234 patron, 958 lower box, 2,727 Upper Box-A and 4,896 Upper Box-B. Total: 7,685.

The Big Dome's seating capacity is 17,500. But management is selling another 1,200 tickets for the SRO crowd. Unfortunately, even the SRO tickets had been sold out. I was told "only a few" general admission tickets will be sold on Saturday at the Big Dome gates hours before the Ateneo-La Salle game. I hope a riot will not happen when the gates open.

But Pedro Muryoti is not bothered by all this hoopla. Madness, if you wish. He will watch the game on TV live at the National Sports Grill (Greenbelt). If he's lucky, he can even win a prize, courtesy of NSG and And 1 (And 1 endorsers include Mike Cortez of La Salle and Rich Alvarez of Ateneo). With some 30 TV sets scattered at NSG, why bother to be at the Big Dome? My *tocayo* Ponch Zamora, who owns the NSG, will be happy to get your reservations by calling 752-5431.

As Pedro Muryoti said: "Who needs the Big Dome? At NSG, I can even have beer watching the game on TV."

■

Are we going to increase our gold medal haul in Busan?

In the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games, we won only one gold medal—through the efforts of Gandy Valle and Romeo Villanueva in the billiards doubles.

Officials say we are good for up to seven gold medals in the Busan Asiad. Brave words.

Study the graph showing our medal production in the Asiad since its inception in 1951 in New Delhi. You will notice how erratic our performance has been in the quadrennial meet.

How Team Philippines performed in Asian Games (1951-1998)

RP Medal Tally

Asian Games	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII
Year	'51	'54	'58	'62	'66	'70	'74	'78	'82	'86	'90	'94	'98
GOLD	5	14	9	7	2	1	0	4	2	4	1	3	1
SILVER	6	14	19	6	15	9	2	4	3	5	2	2	5
BRONZE	8	17	15	24	20	12	11	8	9	9	7	8	12
Standing	4	2	2	3	10	11	NA	9	10	6	13	14	21
No of countries	11	18	20	16	18	18	25	25	33	27	37	42	41

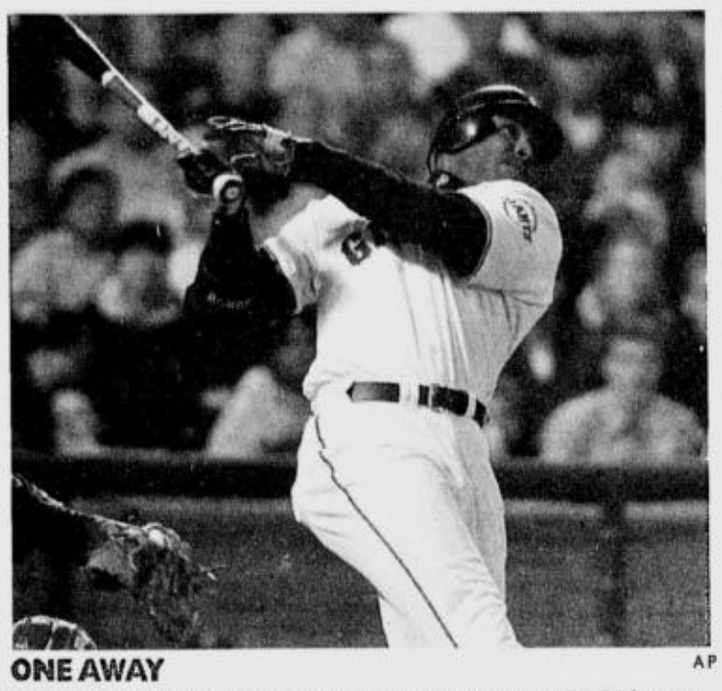
Sources: Ph[illegible]rts Commission; 14th Busan Asian Games website

1951, 1954, 1958 and 1962 were the Philippines' Golden Years in the Asian Games. During those early years of competition, the country was considered one of the sports powers in Asia.

In 1951, with only 31 athletes sent to compete in 4 sports including basketball, 24 went home with a medal. In the Manila Asian Games in 1954, the country displayed its best performance ever in terms of the number of gold medals won. In 1962, the country again figured prominently and it was the year best remembered as Mona Sulaiman's coronation as Asia's sprint queen. But from 1966 to 1998, Team Philippines' finishes were unimpressive.

Japan dominated the competition from the 1st to 8th Asiad. China ruled the 9th to 13th.

Michael R. Cucio, PDI Research



AP

ONE AWAY

Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants swings for his 599th home run, a three-run shot off Chicago Cubs' Steve Smyth in the third inning yesterday at the Pacific Bell Park in San Francisco. Bonds is one home run away from joining Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth and Willie Mays in the 600 home run club. The Giants won, 11-10.

RP 5 in must-win situation against Coca-Cola tonight

By June Navarro

Standings	W	L		W	L
z-Red Bull	7	3	Talk N Text	4	5
y-San Miguel	6	3	Shell	4	5
x-Sta. Lucia	6	3	Selecta-RP	3	6
x-Alaska	6	3	*Purefoods	2	7
x-Coca-Cola	5	4	*Ginebra	2	7
x-FedEx	5	4			

z-already assured of No. 1 ranking and twice-to-beat advantage in quarterfinals

y-already assured of twice-to-beat advantage in quarterfinals

x-already assured of quarterfinals berth

*eliminated

GAME TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.—Selecta-RP vs Coca-Cola

THE SELECTA-RP Team makes its final bid in the elimination round of the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup when it battles Coca-Cola tonight at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Their fate in the mid-season tournament hanging by the thread, the Nationals should beat the Tigers at 7 p.m. and pray skidding Talk N Text and Shell bungle their last games against Alaska and Purefoods, respectively.

At that, the Nationals have a strong chance of figuring on at least a playoff against the Turbochargers or an automatic quarterfinals berth depending on the last matches of four other teams.

Purefoods, Barangay Ginebra, Alaska and San Miguel Beer should close out their elimination stint on a positive note for the Nationals to enter the next round trouble-free.

The Nationals have been playing inconsistently throughout the second conference, a trait hopefully they won't bring in the Asian Games next month.

But RP coach Jong Uichico still has high esteem for the Nationals, saying his troops will get into the flow of things in time for the Busan, South Korea meet.

"We'll find a way," Uichico told sportswriters after their 84-59 debacle against the Aces last Sunday.

Improving their 3-6 slate, however, will take them a lot of perspiration and bloodletting effort as the Tigers are craving for a victory that would catapult them into the Magic 4.

Already assured of a slot in the next phase at 5-4, the Tigers have only five chances out of 32 scenarios that favor their entry into the quarterfinals bearing a twice-to-beat advantage.

One of these probabilities would only materialize if the Tigers beat the Nationals and Sta. Lucia Realty falters against the Beermen on Sunday.

UP battles tailender NU today

By Dennis U. Eroa

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—NU vs UP (Jrs)
4 p.m.—NU vs UP (Srs)

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines resumes its Final Four drive when it clashes with winless National University today in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

No longer pushovers, the Fighting Maroons are aiming to bounce back after bowing to pacesetters La Salle Green Archers in an exciting match last Saturday.

Gametime is set at 4 p.m. The NU Bullpups and the UP Preps collide at 2 p.m.

Despite a 0-5 slate, the Bulldogs remain dangerous. National University lost all its matches by small margins and the Bulldogs are determined to start their comeback by upstaging the Maroons.

Experience-wise, the Bulldogs have the edge against the Maroons. The Maroons, however, are playing with a new-found confidence under coach Allan Gregorio as they try to regain their glory years.

Power forward Abby Santos, Mike Bravo, Vicente Arnaiz, Toti Almeda, Josant Cervantes and rookies Jay-R Reyes and Jonjon Tabique are playing well for UP, whose last title came in 1986.

Bravo, now in his fifth and last year for the Maroons, must realized that his lonesome self cannot carry UP to victory. Under Gregorio, Bravo, a product of the successful San Beda high school basketball program, is learning how to find the open man.

"Well, Mike cannot do it alone. Abby, Jay R and the rest must be involved," said coach Gregorio. He also said that they will treat the game with a mindset that NU's still winless after five outings.

"One cannot beat the Bulldogs by blowout. We have to stick to our game plan," added Gregorio.

The 5-foot-6 Tabique is delighting the crowd with no-frills, textbook moves, while the 6-foot-7 Reyes, though lacking in heft, has no qualms mixing bodies in the shaded lane.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Efren Guerrero rolled 2588 pins to capture the men's all-events title in the 1st SMBC-TCBA Open tenpin bowling championship at SM Center in North Edsa. Also today in 1994, Ft. Bonifacio Golf and Country Club tallied a net 347 to snatch the team event in the seventh leg of the Federation of Philippine Senior Golfers at Capitol Hills course.

Checkmate back Saturday

THE FIFTH series of the Milo Checkmate clinic reels off on Saturday, Aug. 10, at the following venues: St. Benedict College in Alabang Hills, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Vito Cruz, Manila and Greenhills Shopping Center (GSC) in San Juan.

Clinic at SBC will be held at the HS student lounge from 7:30-11:30 a.m.; at RMSC- 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Badminton Building, while at GSC from 2:30-6:30 p.m. at the 2/F Centermall.

Open to kids who are 5-18 years old, the program aims to develop their chess talent into master's level through formal and systematic method of teachings.

Enrolment is accepted at SBC cashiers' office or at the venue site of their choice or may call organizing Metropolitan Chess Club at 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

NCR booters blast Laguna

HIGHLY rated NCR, bannered by Philippine Air Force, crushed Laguna, 11-0, yesterday as it opened its bid for a slot in the national finals at the resumption of action in the Luzon men's football tournament at the Philsports field in Pasig City.

Edzel Bracamonte sparkled for the Metro Manilas by knocking in six goals.

Bracamonte fired his first shot in the third minute and then followed this with five more in the 21st, 37th, 54th, 64th and 84th minutes. Other NCR scorers were Wilfredo Bermejo, Randy Bela-ong, Romel Dosano and Raymund Tonog.

The Manilans led 4-0 at halftime. Laguna, which battled Baguio to a 1-1 standoff in the other opening match Tuesday, must pray that NCR score more than 11 goals against Baguio today to make it to the semis.

SPORTSWATCH

Davenport, Capriati advance

MANHATTAN BEACH, California—Kim Clijsters was beaten, defending champion Lindsay Davenport was taken to three sets, but Jennifer Capriati breezed through her second round match of the Los Angeles Open on Tuesday. Fifth-seeded Clijsters blamed fatigue and slumped 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 to Slovenia's Katarina Srebotnik. Davenport, seeded three but still feeling her way back after missing most of the 2002 season after undergoing knee surgery, held off Russia's Elena Bovina, 6-2, 6-7, 6-3. But second seed Capriati took just 56 minutes to overwhelm Emmanuelle Gagliardi of Switzerland, 6-1, 6-2. *AP*

Sampras, Hewitt tame rivals

CINCINNATI, Ohio—Pete Sampras had to hit his way out of trouble to come away with a three-set win against Guillermo Canas in the first round of the Cincinnati Masters on Tuesday. Sampras went a set and a break down against the Argentinean before turning the match around for a 5-7, 7-6, 6-4 win. Earlier, Wimbledon champion Lleyton Hewitt was in merciless form in his first round match at the $2.95 million event, beating hapless American wildcard Robby Ginepri, 6-0, 6-0. *AP*

RACING TIPS At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. San Diego Force 2. Valentine Dancer
Race 2—1. Woodside 2. Astronaut 3. Vhingget 4. Maging Matalino 5. Rama
Race 3—1. Dragon Heart 2. Piker's Palace 3. King of Arabia 4. Taproot
Race 4—1. Double Check 2. Golden Child 3. Ananpour
Race 5—1. Hot Number 2. Cameron/ Diligence 3. Standout
Race 6—1. Golden Disc 2. Replica 3. Belle D Amour 4. Tochinic 5. No Compromise
Race 7—1. Advance Party 2. Beat D Heat 3. Peek A Boo 4. Glamour Girl 5. King Fisher
Race 8—1. Diabolo Don 2. Noble House 3. Bull Dancing 4. Morning Glory 5. Kitana
Race 9—1. Jhelen 2. Strong Alphonse 3. Like A Prince 4. Ticket to Fame 5. Ocean Menary 6. Steel Wheel

SPORTS ON TV Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Western and Southern Financial Masters (Cincinnati), Early Round Coverage Day #2 at 9 a.m. (r), Day #3 at 6 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: This is the PGA Tour at 7 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

PGA - The International, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r), Highlights at 11 p.m. on Star Sports

PGA Europro Tour 2002 Highlights at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball at 7 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on ESPN

BOXING: World Class Championship Boxing - Fitzroy Vanderpool vs Floyd Trumpet at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

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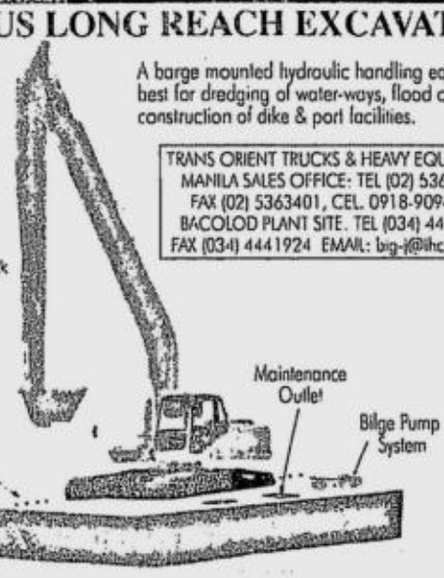

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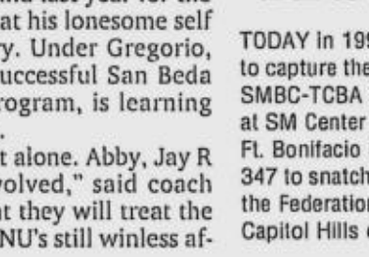

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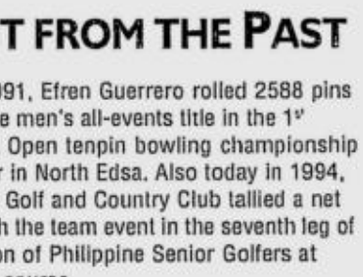

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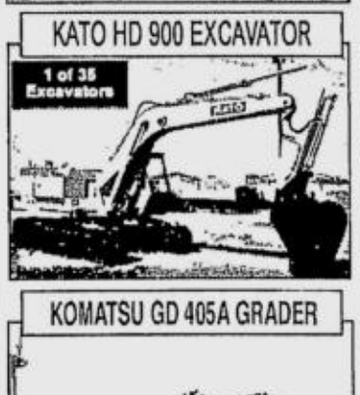

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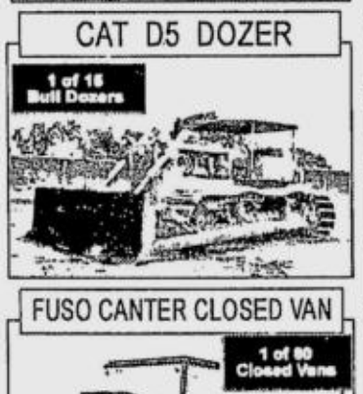

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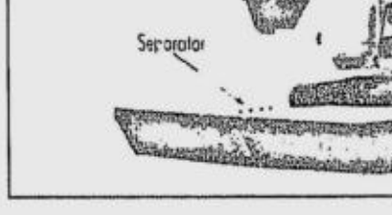
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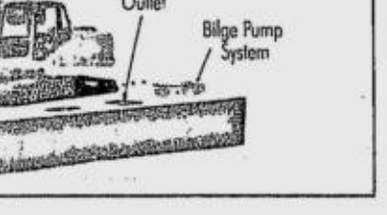
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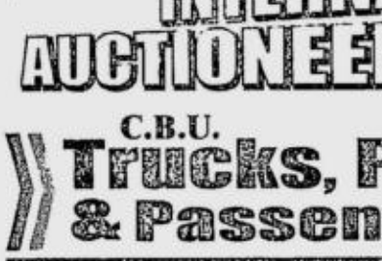
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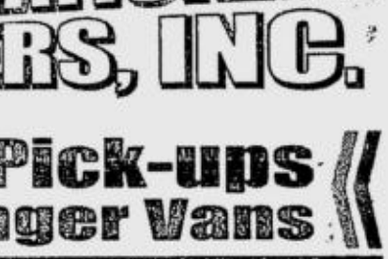
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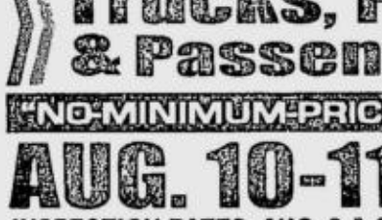
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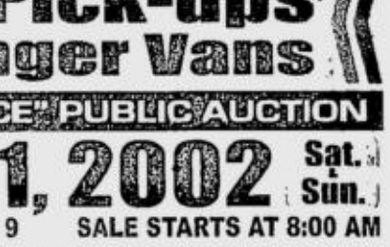
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Concert for athletes tonight

THE country's athletes will be feted in the Alay Sa Gintong Medalya fund-raising concert tonight at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City. Eric Buhain, the former swimming sensation who now chairs the Philippine Sports Commission, will lead the sports officials gracing the event starting at 9 p.m.

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◉ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

FOUR DIGIT — Luzon 9 8 4 6 (in exact order) Vis / Min 3 0 3 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45 — 42 8 17 21 14 12

SUERTRES 9 2 3

SBC beats PCU by forfeiture in fight-marred game

Standings	W	L
CSB	7	1
PCU	6	2
SSC	5	2
JRU	4	3
Letran	3	4
Mapua	3	4
UPHR	1	7
San Beda	1	7

GAMES TOMORROW
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—SSC vs Mapua (srs)
4 p.m.—JRU vs Letran (srs)

By June Navarro

SAN Beda scored its first victory of the season yesterday via forfeiture, 20-0, over erstwhile leader Philippine Christian University after a bench-clearing incident in the 78th NCAA basketball tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

A total of 23 players from both squads figured in the melee and were ejected from the game, wiping out the entire PCU bench except for slotman Bernzon Franco and Joseph Roque.

The Red Lions were also decimated but still had five players on the floor after league officials handed down the decision.

Arjun Cordero, Jeffrey Bombeo, James Hudencial, Jerome Paterno and Saleh Yousif were left to carry the fight for the Red Lions, forcing PCU officials to concede the one-sided contest.

The Red Lions were in full control, 79-60, with 6:24 remaining in the fourth quarter when Red Lion Erl Merelos and PCU playmaker Aldwyn Ilagan figured in a shoving match.

It sparked the bench-clearing incident that saw four Dolphins—Ilagan, Rob Sanz, Nelson Gatdula and Leo Gaspi—chase Merelos, who parried blows from all angles.

Earlier, College of St. Benilde Blazers bounced back by whipping University of Perpetual Help Rizal, 70-60.

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Zarate, Cuello head Mizuno golfest field

JAPAN World Cup partners Danny Zarate and Rodrigo Cuello are expected to lead the field in the first Mizuno Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines Two-Man Team Challenge set on Aug. 12-13 at the Aguinaldo Golf Club course.

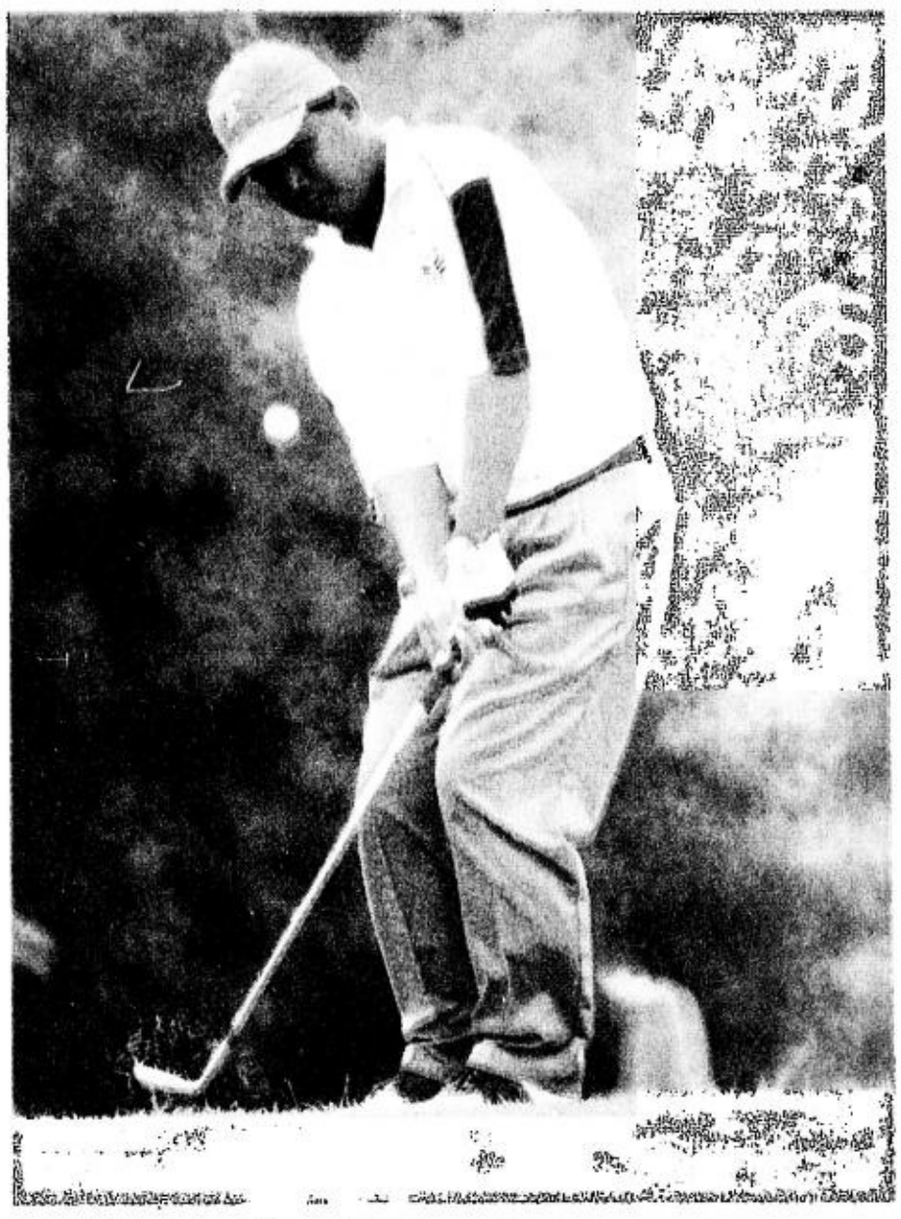
Zarate, currently the best-placed Filipino in the Asian Tour rankings, and Cuello will try to lead their respective partners to victory in the unique 36-hole event which will require competing pros to represent their respective home clubs.

Zarate plays out of Riviera while Cuello is based at Villamor.

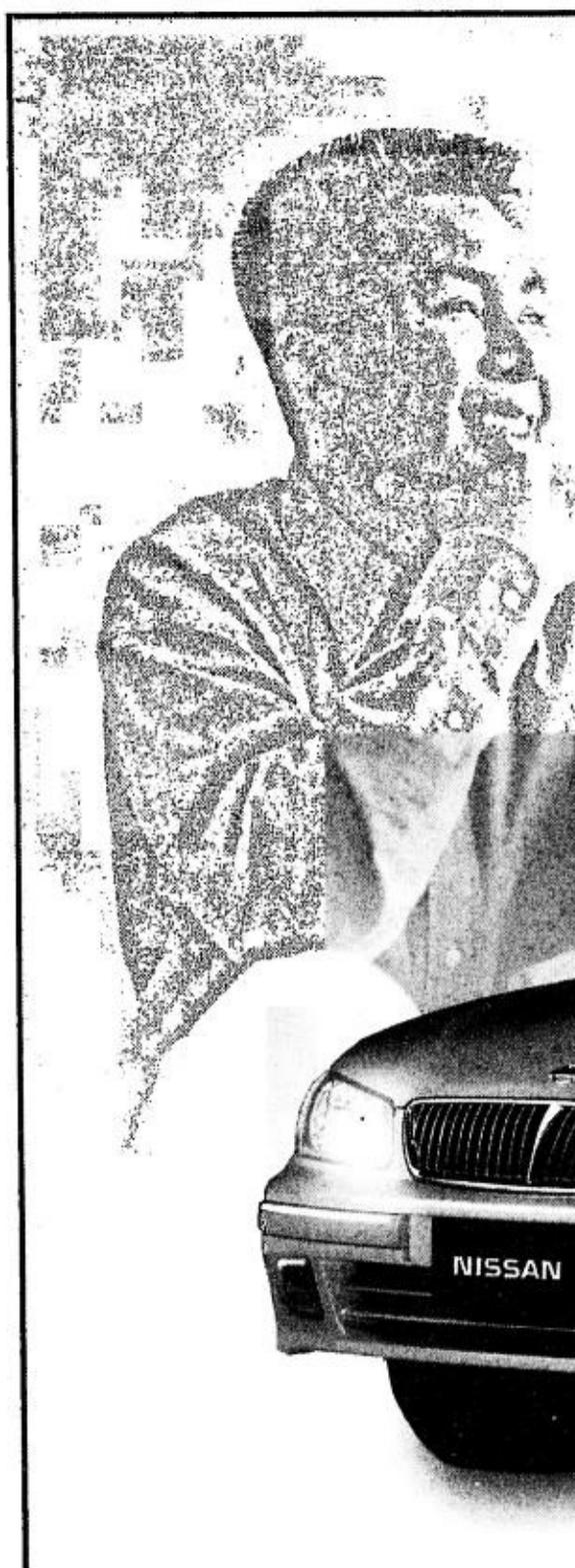
Mizuno, through local distributor Masters Sports headed by Lovell Gopez, is providing the bulk of the prize package as pros hold one of their biggest events since the Philippine Open at Wack Wack.

Only the first 40 teams which will register but still depending on the tournament conditions drafted by the PGAP.

Entry free is P5,000 per team. Interested parties may call the PGAP secretariat at the Power Golf Driving Range at 635-2592 or 635-2593. Deadline for submission of entries is tomorrow, Aug. 9.



ZARATE: Best-placed Pinoy in Asian Tour rankings.



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NISSAN SOUTHMOORS Carmona, Cavite 699-2400 to 01, (046) 430-1683 to 84
NISSAN MEGA Mega City (054) 472-3577 to 79
NISSAN PAMPANGA San Fernando, Pampanga • (045) 961-5461 to 62, 961-5481, 860-2164 to 65
ROYCE MOTOR CENTER Cabanatuan City (044) 463-7210 to 12, 463-3358
ROYCE MOTOR CENTER Santiago City (078) 682-8701, 682-6706 & 07
ROYCE MOTOR CENTER Batong, Bulacan (044) 673-0225
ROYCE MOTOR CENTER San Fernando, Pampanga (045) 961-7773 to 74
WORLD CARS Batong, Bulacan (044) 7660919 Telefax: 766-0492, 766-2486
WORLD CARS Cabanatuan (044) 463-0089, 463-7279
WORLD CARS Ilocos (078) 682-6850
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NISSAN CEBU DIST. Mandaue, Cebu (032) 346-8422 to 25, 346-7439
NISSAN ILOILO Iloilo City (033) 320-4051 to 53, 329-7192 to 93
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NISSAN CAGAYAN DE ORO Corrales, Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 729-788, 725-682, (088) 858-3000, 858-3002
BUTUAN BRANCH Butuan City (085) 815-3164, 342-7210
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'Lewd' beer joint shut down

A composite team of policemen and Manila Business Promotions and Development Office personnel yesterday shut down a beer joint for allegedly presenting lewd shows. Authorities also learned that the Manila Square Garden and Super Club, located at 1988 Taft Ave., Malate, had no permit to operate as a bar and no safety inspection certificate and sanitary permit. *Jerome Aning*

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

■ Bus robbers kill cop /A22

NBI man kills gf's textmate

Rookie cop shot in front of Paco Park; assailant lands in hospital

By Philip C. Tubeza

A JEALOUS NBI agent shot dead a rookie cop in front of the Paco Park yesterday after he discovered that the victim had been sending text messages to his girlfriend.

National Bureau of Investigation agent Rodrigo Bange shot and killed PO1 Nestor O. Bontiago, a National Capital Region Police Office trainee, of 435 C. Cabral St., Ermita, Manila, after they fought over Bange's girl friend.

Bontiago died from a single gunshot wound in his abdomen, said Detective Raul Olavarrio, of the Western Police District-homicide section.

Bange, the suspect, is assigned with the Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division at the NBI headquarters.

Olavarrio said the shooting incident happened at 1:05 a.m. yesterday in front of Paco Park's main entrance on Gen. Luna Street, Ermita, Manila.

The victim was allegedly talking with the park's security guard, Larry B. Vicente, of the Variance Protective and Security Agency, when the suspect arrived.

Bange was on board his blue pick-up van with his girlfriend, a certain Beth, who works as a guest relations officer at a pub along San Marcelino Street.

Bange confronted Bontiago, asking the policeman if he was Beth's "textmate," the person who repeatedly texts her.

Bontiago answered that he was indeed the one who sent text messages to Bange's girlfriend, adding that it was Beth who gave him her number.

With this admission, Bange blew his top. He pulled out a gun of unknown caliber and shot Bontiago in the abdomen.

Guard Vicente reacted and returned fire at the NBI agent. He hit Bange, who is still confined at the Manila Medical Center, Olavario said.

Bontiago was rushed to the Philippine General Hospital where he expired at around 3:15 a.m., Olavario added.

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It's so easy to reload your SMART Money. Here's how:

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4. Key in amount (min. of P100) to be reloaded.
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2. To join, the participant must have a Metrobank account and enroll it in Metrobank Mobile Banking. He simply fills out the Metrobank E-Banking form. Then he registers his bank account in the SMART Menu in his SMART GSM celfone to earn one raffle entry.
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7. Two Nokia 8310 handsets will be raffled off under the supervision of a DTI representative every Monday within the promo period at 5 p.m. from August 15 to October 7, 2002. The draw will be held at 40/F, Rufino Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City.
8. Raffle entries earned until 12 m.n. every Wednesday from 08 August 2002 to 02 October 2002 qualify for the draw. Non-winning entries will qualify for the next draw. Last day for the submission of entries is on 02 October.
9. Winners will be notified via SMS and registered mail. A participant may only win once.
10. Redemption is until 60 days from receipt of registered mail.
11. Prizes may be claimed at the nearest SMART Wireless Center specified in the registered mail. Winners should present the following: a valid ID with picture, a Metrobank proof of deposit and if applicable, his SMART Money Card.
12. Employees of SMART Communications, Inc., Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company, its advertising agencies and suppliers and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and/or affinity are disqualified to join the promo.
13. Promo period is from 08 August to 07 October 2002.

SMART Simply Amazing!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1461, Series of 2002

Bus robbers kill cop

By Alcuin Papa

BENEDICTO at the morgue.

"YOU shot my brother, now we will kill you!"

These were reportedly the last words heard by PO3 Oliver Benedicto before five robbers ganged up on him inside a provincial bus bound for Manila the other night.

Benedicto, 30, assigned to the Northern Police District, of 2575 Ejeron Compound, Sta. Ana, Manila, bled to death due to multiple stab wounds inflicted by the suspects which the policeman fought singlehandedly.

He was killed on the occasion his 15th wedding anniversary.

Passengers of the bus, police said, heard one of the suspects, purportedly the leader of the group, mouth the threat to Benedicto before he was stabbed to death a total of 14 times and shot once in the stomach.

According to the report of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit, the five holdup men boarded the Viva Aladdin bus with Plate No. TVZ-153 in front of the Jollibee branch in San Fernando, Pampanga. The bus started from Bataan and was bound for Pasay City.

When the bus passed the San Fernando tollgate of the North Luzon Expressway at around 7 p.m., the robbers announced the holdup and started to divest the 11 passengers of their cash, cell phones and other valuables.

However, a uniformed Benedicto, who was seated at the back, got up, pulled out his service firearm and started to fire. He was able to hit three of the suspects, one of them said to be the brother of the group leader. This was when the robbers charged at Benedicto, stabbing him in the face, head and different parts of his body.

As Benedicto lay on the floor fighting for his life, the robbers ordered bus driver Edwin Nuguit, 27, to drive on to Manila. They also ordered conductor Rickson Mercado, 23, to pull down all the bus curtains to conceal the grisly crime.

Throughout the trip, the passengers cowered in fear until three of the suspects who were shot by Benedicto got down in Muñoz, Quezon City. The two others got off near Quezon Avenue.

As the bus drove on, the passengers discovered that Benedicto had expired.

When the bus reached Timog Avenue, some of the shocked passengers disembarked. The commotion drew the attention of traffic enforcers in the area and the bus was brought to the Kamuning Police Station.

Investigators discovered that the suspects had taken the wallet of Benedicto. Also recovered from the bus were five spent bullets of different caliber, live bullets of .38, 9mm and an Armalite rifle.

None of the 11 passengers were reported injured.

The suspects are now the subject of a Metro-wide manhunt as Quezon City police was able to compile cartographic sketches through descriptions provided by the remaining passengers.

The leadership of the CPD has ordered a thorough search of hospitals in the Muñoz area.

Nikko GM a no-show

By Leila Salaverria

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's Japanese general manager who was charged with attempted rape and sexual harassment failed to appear at the preliminary investigation yesterday, a move that the victim's lawyer denounced.

Chiyuki Fujimoto had instead filed his counter-affidavit on Monday, claiming he had an appointment yesterday. His lawyer, lawyer Agnes Rivera, was the one who appeared before prosecutor Imelda Saulog. The next hearing was set for Aug. 14.

A physical therapist from Clark Hatch had accused the Japanese executive of trying to rape her on June 25 as she was massaging him inside his room.

In her affidavit, the victim said a drunken Fujimoto had run his hands on her thighs and behind while she was massaging him. Fearing that the executive would fabricate a story about her if she ran to call for help, the victim said she continued to massage him. It was then that Fujimoto grabbed his sex organ and allegedly told the victim that he wants to sleep with her.

But due to drunkenness, the suspect fell when he tried to remove his jogging pants.

METROBRIEFS

Raped, stabbed in Makati

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Arrested in Malabon

QUEZON City policemen on Tuesday arrested four of six men who robbed a Chinese businesswoman and killed her son last week. Charges of murder and robbery are being prepared against Victor Cuyos, 30, a fish vendor, Ramoncito Fernandez, 29, the reported mastermind of the group, Samuel Cuyos, 27, and Nestor Mercader, 22, police said. Senior Insp. Eduardo Dizon of the Central Policed District led a team of policemen in rounding up the suspects, who were hiding out in Malabon City, police said. On Aug. 2, the suspects hit the WKC Hardware store on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, and took P200,000 in cash from the owner Nancy Wong, and killed her son Jovencio, police said. Investigators managed to trace the suspects' getaway vehicle to a rent-a-car company. CPD lawmen are now looking for the remaining two suspects. *Alcuin Papa*

Network sued in QC

THE ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. was hit with a P17-million damage suit for the death of Estela Roxas and her 6-year-old daughter Pauline in a vehicular accident involving one of the network's drivers last March. Manolito Roxas, who lost his wife and daughter in the accident, filed the charges with the QC Regional Trial Court early this week. In his complaint, he said ABS-CBN and Magat should pay him P17 million in moral and other damages because the driver was to blame for the accident. down the pedestrian overpass. Estela and Pauline were killed, while Manolito and the couple's 2-year-old child were hurt. *Agnes Donato*

Shabu sandwich

SOME 300 grams of shabu with a street value of around P300,000 and kept inside a loaf of bread were recovered by Quezon City jail guards from a 23-year-old suspect. Ronnie Garcia of 8 Samuel St., Barangay Bungad, Quezon City, tried to enter the jail at around 8:45 p.m. the other night with a bag of groceries for one of the prisoners. When the groceries left by Garcia were inspected, four sachets of shabu were found sandwiched in a loaf of bread. The jail guards collared Garcia. *Alcuin Papa*

Frank Chavez vs corrupt judges

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, acting as the Armed Forces commander-in-chief, has reassigned government troops in Basilan and Sulu to areas infested with New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas.

With the Abu Sayyaf terrorists on the run, the military can now concentrate its forces on communist rebels who control many remote barangays.

***

It's easy for government troops to defeat the NPAs because the guerrillas are outnumbered. That is, if the fight is frontal.

But the NPAs don't fight a conventional war where opposing forces are ranged against each other in the battlefield. They wage hit-and-run battles. They ambush government troops and then lose themselves among the sympathetic barrio folk.

The government can never win against the guerrillas using conventional methods of warfare. The US, with all its armed might, did not win against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese regulars in a protracted guerrilla war.

***

The only way for the government to win against the NPA is to fight it right down its alley: the hearts and minds of the poor barrio folk who comprise the majority of the population.

How? By keeping the barrio folk busy earning a living through livelihood programs. By making things like health care and free medicines available to people in remote villages. By deploying uncover agents among the barrio folk.

Poverty is the root cause of the NPA problem.

***

I once had a friend who owned a recruitment agency. She went to a town in Bataan and recruited the menfolk to work in the shipyards and construction sites in the Middle East.

In gratitude, the town honored her by adopting her as one of its daughters.

During the rites honoring her, the mayor was profuse in his thanks to her for giving jobs to the town's unemployed.

The mayor said that with one stroke she had solved the NPA problem in the town.

"You don't know it but most of the people you recruited are NPAs," the mayor told my friend.

***

Most of the NPA regulars are not hardcore communists. Only a very few are hardcore ideologues.

The NPA is mostly composed of people who couldn't find employment. Many others have joined or are sympathizing with the NPAs because they were once victims of injustice and couldn't find redress in the police or the regular courts.

Aside from poverty, another reason for the growing ranks of the NPA is the apathetic government bureaucracy: arrogant and abusive government officials', as well as corrupt prosecutors and judges.

***

Speaking of corrupt prosecutors and judges, former Solicitor-General Frank Chavez has launched "Operation Clean Hands" to cleanse the judiciary of corrupt magistrates and prosecutors.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

Chavez has written 20 big law firms in Metro Manila , appealing to them to join Operation Clean Hands. So far, seven law firms have responded favorably, Chavez said.

***

Below are excerpts of Chavez's letter-appeal to lawyers and law firms:

"As practicing lawyers, we are well aware that corruption in the judiciary and prosecutorial arm of the government has generated into a metastatic and worrisome degree. A considerable number of judges and prosecutors decide cases for considerations other than on the merits. There are exceptions, of course, but they are few and hard to come by.

"It is along the foregoing considerations that I invite you to join `Operation Clean Hands' for the purpose of cleansing the judiciary and the prosecutorial arm of the government. We will expose, prosecute and work toward the conviction of corrupt judges and prosecutors. By way of guarding our ranks, we also intend to expose, prosecute and push for the conviction and disbarment of lawyers who corrupt judges and prosecutors. The path will not be easy but we should have the mind and will to cross swords with anybody who seeks to thwart our lawful and legitimate purposes. Only those who dare struggle can dare to win."

***

Frank Chavez should know whereof he speaks because he's a practicing lawyer. He knows who the corrupt judges and prosecutors are. He also probably knows the corrupt justices at the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

Chavez told me his campaign would spare no one, even the magistrates at the high tribunal.

Frank, the membership of the Philippine Bar might be depleted.

***

The President has ordered three judges who allegedly sided with crime suspects when the evidence against the respondents was strong.

The judges are Tabaco, Albay Judge Arnulfo Cabredo, Pasig Judge Rodrigo Lorenzo and Olongapo City Judge Eleudoro Obiada.

Of the three judges under fire, Obiada is known to this writer not for having a questionable record.

***

Early this year, Obiada issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) to the Bureau of Customs to prevent the transfer of Subic Bay customs collector Billy Bibit from being transferred to another post.

Obiada issued the TRO even when he had no business interfering in purely administrative matters inside the customs bureau.

I was told that the Olongapo City judge issued the TRO for monetary considerations.

The Makati Cinemanila 4th International Film Festival

AUGUST 8, THURSDAY
Glorietta Greenbelt Cinema 2, 8:00PM

An American Rhapsody

(USA/HUNGARY)
A film telling the story of Margaret Szandor who made a risky escape from communist presecution in Hungary in the 1980's with her husband and elder daughter. Years later, having found fulfillment in her new home in the United States, she arranges for her other daughter she left behind to come live with her. The daughter's feeling of alnation turns to acceptance as her idealized childhood memories are confronted by reality and her firsthand experience experince of a free and democratic world.

presented by the Consulate of the Republic of Hungary

RING

(JAPAN)
The First of the Ring Trilogy. An estranged couple reunite to save themselves and their son by uncovering the curse locked in a video that kills viewers in one week.

(98 mins.)

AUGUST 8, THURSDAY
Glorietta Greenbelt Cinema 2, 11:00PM

OTHER TITLES FOR AUGUST 8
Greenbelt Cinema 1
11:00 am In the Country Where Nothing Happens (Mexico)
2:00 pm
5:00 pm Eliana, Eliana (Indonesia)
8:00 pm Following (UK)
11:00 pm Pickpocket (Sri Lanka)

Greenbelt Cinema 2
11:00 am I not Stupid (Singapore)
2:00 pm Alias La Gringa (Peru)
5:00 pm Gege (Hong Kong)

Greenbelt Preview room
PHILIPPINE DOCUMENTARIES
WORLD PREMIERE
2:00 pm Solid Video Symposium
4:00 pm "Case of Wilkie Duran Monte: Toxic Chemical Victim" Minnie Solomon Crouse (VHS, 14 mins) *in competition*
6:00 pm "Journey into Madness" Briccio Santos (DV 45 mins) *in competition*

AUGUST 9, FRIDAY
Greenbelt Preview Room
Feature Documentaries (USA)
1:00 pm "Daughter from Danang" Gail Dolgin &Vicente Franco (Beta, 80 mins)
2:30 pm "Ravi Shnakar: Between Two Worlds" Mark Kidel (Beta 90 mins)
World Cinema (Shorts)
4:00 pm "Horses on Mars" Eric Anderson (VHS, 7:28 mins) *in competition*; "Call Home" Han Kew Kwang (Singapore, VHS, 21 mins) *in competition*; "Pinball" by Han Kew Kwang (Singapore VHS 21 mins) *in competition*; "Bauhinia" Eva Chans (VHS 50 mins) "Sin Libertad" Inaki Arteta (Spain VHS 30 mins) "Para Sempre Assim" Joao Carlos lemos, Roger Carlomagno (Brazil, 7 mins) *in competition*; "At Dawning" Martin Jones (UK 35 mm 12 mins) *in competition*; "Adios Mama" (7 mins); "Bridge to Heaven" Richard Benipayo (USA 35 mm 20 mins); "15" Royston Tan (Singapore. Betacam 12 mins) *in competition* "Pyongyang Robogirl' Jouni Hokkanen. Simojukka Ruippo (Finland beta 3.5 mins) *in competition*

Mastery in surgery course

THE DEPARTMENT of Surgery of the College of Medicine-Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines Manila will hold its annual postgraduate course entitled ``Mastery in Surgery: Continuing Challenges in Surgery 2002" on Sept. 9-11.

The postgraduate course will offer interactive sessions, group discussions, lectures and other learning techniques to equip surgical practitioners and residents with a comprehensive and updated strategies to address common surgical conditions.

Activities will be held at the Manila Midtown Hotel along Pedro Gil Street, Malate, Manila. For particulars call Dr. Teodoro Herbosa or Ms Nette R. Mercado at (02) 524-1144; (02)521-8450 local 2257; fax (02)526-4356, mobile no. (-916) 4625127

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With the Abu Sayyaf terrorists on the run, the military can now concentrate its forces on communist rebels who control many remote barangays.

***

It's easy for government troops to defeat the NPAs because the guerrillas are outnumbered. That is, if the fight is frontal.

But the NPAs don't fight a conventional war where opposing forces are ranged against each other in the battlefield. They wage hit-and-run battles. They ambush government troops and then lose themselves among the sympathetic barrio folk.

The government can never win against the guerrillas using conventional methods of warfare. The US, with all its armed might, did not win against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese regulars in a protracted guerrilla war.

***

The only way for the government to win against the NPA is to fight it right down its alley: the hearts and minds of the poor barrio folk who comprise the majority of the population.

How? By keeping the barrio folk busy earning a living through livelihood programs. By making things like health care and free medicines available to people in remote villages. By deploying uncover agents among the barrio folk.

Poverty is the root cause of the NPA problem.

***

I once had a friend who owned a recruitment agency. She went to a town in Bataan and recruited the menfolk to work in the shipyards and construction sites in the Middle East.

In gratitude, the town honored her by adopting her as one of its daughters.

During the rites honoring her, the mayor was profuse in his thanks to her for giving jobs to the town's unemployed.

The mayor said that with one stroke she had solved the NPA problem in the town.

"You don't know it but most of the people you recruited are NPAs," the mayor told my friend.

** *

Most of the NPA regulars are not hardcore communists. Only a very few are hardcore ideologues.

The NPA is mostly composed of people who couldn't find employment. Many others have joined or are sympathizing with the NPAs because they were once victims of injustice and couldn't find redress in the police or the regular courts.

Aside from poverty, another reason for the growing ranks of the NPA is the apathetic government bureaucracy: arrogant and abusive government officials', as well as corrupt prosecutors and judges.

***

Speaking of corrupt prosecutors and judges, former Solicitor-General Frank Chavez has launched "Operation Clean Hands" to cleanse the judiciary of corrupt magistrates and prosecutors.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

Chavez has written 20 big law firms in Metro Manila , appealing to them to join Operation Clean Hands. So far, seven law firms have responded favorably, Chavez said.

***

Below are excerpts of Chavez's letter-appeal to lawyers and law firms:

"As practicing lawyers, we are well aware that corruption in the judiciary and prosecutorial arm of the government has generated into a metastatic and worrisome degree. A considerable number of judges and prosecutors decide cases for considerations other than on the merits. There are exceptions, of course, but they are few and hard to come by.

"It is along the foregoing considerations that I invite you to join `Operation Clean Hands' for the purpose of cleansing the judiciary and the prosecutorial arm of the government. We will expose, prosecute and work toward the conviction of corrupt judges and prosecutors. By way of guarding our ranks, we also intend to expose, prosecute and push for the conviction and disbarment of lawyers who corrupt judges and prosecutors. The path will not be easy but we should have the mind and will to cross swords with anybody who seeks to thwart our lawful and legitimate purposes. Only those who dare struggle can dare to win."

***

Frank Chavez should know whereof he speaks because he's a practicing lawyer. He knows who the corrupt judges and prosecutors are. He also probably knows the corrupt justices at the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

Chavez told me his campaign would spare no one, even the magistrates at the high tribunal.

Frank, the membership of the Philippine Bar might be depleted.

***

The President has ordered three judges who allegedly sided with crime suspects when the evidence against the respondents was strong.

The judges are Tabaco, Albay Judge Arnulfo Cabredo, Pasig Judge Rodrigo Lorenzo and Olongapo City Judge Eleudoro Obiada.

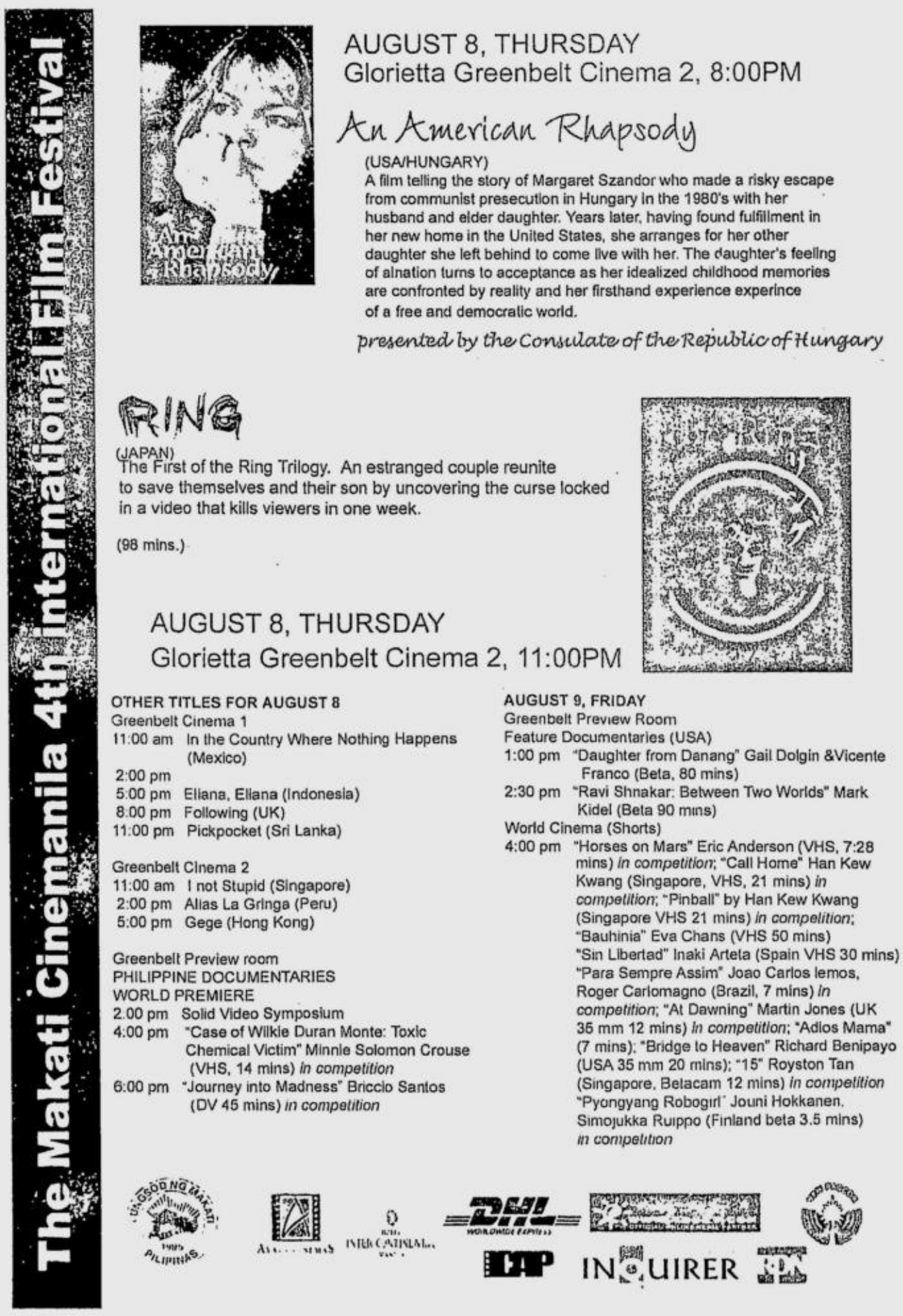
Of the three judges under fire, Obiada is known to this writer not for having a questionable record.

***

Early this year, Obiada issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) to the Bureau of Customs to prevent the transfer of Subic Bay customs collector Billy Bibit from being transferred to another post.

Obiada issued the TRO even when he had no business interfering in purely administrative matters inside the customs bureau.

I was told that the Olongapo City judge issued the TRO for monetary considerations.



Mastery in surgery course

THE DEPARTMENT of Surgery of the College of Medicine-Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines Manila will hold its annual postgraduate course entitled ``Mastery in Surgery: Continuing Challenges in Surgery 2002" on Sept. 9-11.

The postgraduate course will offer interactive sessions, group discussions, lectures and other learning techniques to equip surgical practitioners and residents with a comprehensive and updated strategies to address common surgical conditions.

Activities will be held at the Manila Midtown Hotel along Pedro Gil Street, Malate, Manila. For particulars call Dr. Teodoro Herbosa or Ms Nette R. Mercado at (02) 524-1144; (02)521-8450 local 2257; fax (02)526-4356, mobile no. (-916) 4625127

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Mitch Valdes ROCKS!

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at Onstage

2nd level, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City

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Tickets are available at all TicketWorld outlets. For inquiries and reservations call 891-5610

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest

Festival Cinema (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
2 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
3 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 GOLD (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	ALL ABOUT A BOY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SORORITY BOYS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
8	ANG GALING MO BABES
9	URAGON
10	MEGIDDO

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana Cinema TEL. 551 63 87

1	URAGON
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	SAGAD

Starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	URAGON
2	GALING MO BABES
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
5	SAGAD

Metropolis Star tel 850.4285

1	SAGAD
2	PAKI SABI NA LANG
3	GALING MO BABES
4	URAGON
5	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6	WINDTALKERS
7	
8	

Premiere Cinema (Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13 — THX

1	ALL ABOUT BOYS

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	PAKI SABI NA LANG
2	SUM OF ALL FEARS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	
2	SAGAD
3	

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	
A	

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	URAGON
2	
3	
4	

Gotesco Cinema

Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	
3	
4	URAGON
5	ALL ABOUT A BOYS
6	GALING MO BABES
7 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
8 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
9 (DOLBY)	KILLING MO SOFTLY

Gotesco Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PAKI SABI NA LANG
2	GALING MO BABES
3	URAGON
4 (SDDS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	SAGAD
6 (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
7 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
8	MEN IN BLACK 2
9	HIGH EXPLOSIVE

Gotesco Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	
2	
3	
4	GALING MO BABES
5 (SDDS)	URAGON
6	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
7 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
8	SAGAD

Gotesco Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	GALING MO BABES
2	SAGAD
3 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	URAGON
5 (SDDS)	WINDTALKERS

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	URAGON

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	URAGON

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	GALING MO BABES SUGAT

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856 — Marketplace

1	URAGON
2	GALING MO BABES
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto — SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	GALING MO BABES
3	PAKI SABI NA LANG
4	URAGON
5	SAGAD

New Divisoria Mall — DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	
2	

Berma TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 67

1	URAGON
2	SAGAD

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

Cinema 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	40 URAGON
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	URAGON
2 (DTS)	GALING MO BABES
3 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	ALL ABOUT A BOY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	URAGON
2 (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
3 (DTS)	ALL ABOUT A BOY
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	GALING MO BABES
2	PAKI SABI NA LANG
3	MEGGIDO
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	PAKI SABI NA LANG
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DOLBY)	MEGGIDO
4 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
2	SAGAD
3	URAGON
4 (DTS)	GALING MO BABES

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DTS)	ALL ABOUT A BOY
4	URAGON
5	DOG SOLDIER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	URAGON
3	GALING MO BABES

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249-2558

1	GALING MO BABES
2	URAGON
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2 (SDDS)	RESERVE

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MEGIDDO
2	URAGON
3	PAKI SABI NA LANG

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	GALING MO BABES
3	WINDTALKERS
4	PAKI SABI NA LANG

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY DS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	PAKI SABI NA LANG
3 (DTS)	SORORITY BOYS
4	URAGON

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING — THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING

5:00 PM , 7:30PM, 10:00 PM

about a boy

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	KILLING ME SOFTLY
2	GALING MO BABES
3	WINDTALKERS
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6	URAGON
7	SAGAD
8	ALL ABOUT A BOY

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 -7161416

1	URAGON
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	ALL ABOUT A BOY
5	WINDTALKERS
6	SAGAD
7	STUART LITTLE 2
8	SORORITY BOYS
9	GALING MO BABES
10	PAKI SABI NA LANG

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	ABOUT A BOY
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG
4	WINDTALKERS
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	D'URAGON
7	8 LEGGED FREAKS
8	GALING GALING BABES
9	SORORITY BOYS
10	SAGAD
11	MEN IN BLACK 2
12	MEGIDDO

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	ABOUT A BOY
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	8 LEGGED FREAKS
5	MEGIDDO
6	WINDTALKERS
7	PAKISABI NA LANG
8	SAGAD
9	D URAGON
10	SORORITY BOYS
11	MEN IN BLACK 2
12	GALING GALING BABES

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	MEN IN BLACKI 2
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	MEGIDDO
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	PAKISABI NA LANG
9	D ' URAGON
10	WINDTALKERS
11	GALING GALING BABES
12	SAGAD

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	GALING GALING BABES
4	D'URAGON
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	ABOUT A BOY
7	8 LEGGED FREAKS
8	WINDTALKERS

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888

1	HIGH CRIMES
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	MEN IN LACK 2
7	PAKI SABI NA LANG
8	URAGON
9	WINDTALKERS
10	GALING MO BABES

SM CITY CEBU 2313876

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	SORORITY BOYS
4	DOG SOLDIERS
5	URAGON
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	GALING MO BABES
8	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

SM CITY ILOILO 3209422

1	URAGON
2	CLOSED
3	ALL ABOUT BENJAMINS
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	BIG FAT LIAR
7	CLOSED
8	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	GALING MO BABES
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	URAGON

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT 8294975

1	GALING MO BABES
2	WINDTALKERS
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	URAGON

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302

1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	ABOUT A BOY
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	URAGON

SM CITY DAVAO 2976998

1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	WINDTALKERS
4	URAGON
5	DOG SOLDIERS
6	MEGIDDO

SM BICUTAN

1	SOON TO OPEN!
2	4 NEW
3	STATE-OF-THE-ART
4	VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	SOON TO OPEN!
2	4 NEW
3	STATE-OF-THE-ART
4	VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 40th Avenue Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City 0389781-85 loc 120

ALL ABOUT A BOY
11:15 FS/ 11:45/ 2:00/ 4:15/ 6:30/ 8:45/ 10:30 LFS/ 11:00 LMF/ 12:40 END

EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
11:15 FS/ 11:45 MF/ 2:00/ 4:15/ 6:30/ 8:45/ 10:30 LFS/ 11:00 LMF/ 12:45 END

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Robinsons Movieworld CINEMAS

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NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632-9115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX	ABOUT A BOY
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	MEGIDDO
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	WINDTALKERS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	URAGONS
9	GALING MO BABES
10	STUART LITTLE 2

Ermita 536-7809-12

1	WINDTALKERS
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	URAGONS
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	GALING MO BABES
6	ABOUT A BOY
7	KILLING ME SOFTLY

Metro East - Marcos Hiway 682-8193 / 8280

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	ABOUT A BOY
4	URAGONS
5	WINDTALKERS
6	GALING MO BABES
7	
8	

Novaliches 935-3229-30

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6	GALING MO BABES
7	URAGONS
8	

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838

1	WINDTALKERS
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	GALING MO BABES
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	URAGONS

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	PAKI SABI NA LANG
4	WINDTALKERS
5	WALK TO REMEMBER
6	BIG FAT LIAR

Iloilo 336-8077 - 78

1	WINDTALKERS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	BIG FAT LIAR
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	URAGONS
6	ALL ABOUT BENJAMINS

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp. 875 1927 / 961 5318 / 5270

1	URAGONS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	GALING MO BABES
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	WINDTALKERS

malabon citisquare- soon to open.

Late Night Screening

heather graham joseph fiennes

killing me softly

on

August 9 -10, 2002 / Friday & Saturday - 11pm. @ Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

how-2-reach-us:

email: htc@netasia-mnl.net

http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

call-a-movie 536-7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

South Border returns to Hard Rock Café

SOUTH Border stages a two-night performance at Hard Rock Cafe, Aug. 10 and 17.

A major crowd drawer in every major venue, South Border, with top bands like Freestyle, Rage, Passage, Soulid and Prime Council, has been part of Hard Rock's entertainment lineup since the start of the year.

South Border will render a repertoire of R&B, pop, soul, hip-hop and dance tunes.

FPJ'S FAVORITE LOUNGE IS 14

The cafe lounge frequented by celebrities like George Canseco, Malu Barry, Aris Dimavivas and Fernando Poe Jr., among other stars, and the former singing venue for Janine Desiderio and Marissa Sanchez , is celebrating its 14th anniversary today. Bar owner Gia Guison (photo) invites all her regular guests, former singers and plain music lovers to a night of song and laughter to mark another year of good and clean fun. G Square is also popular for its satisfying and affordable dishes. The cafe is located along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GALING GALING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	D' URAGONS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WINDTALKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ABOUT A BOY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SAGAD
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PAGSAWAAN / 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
ODEON	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
ODEON-2	REPLICANT / HARI NG SELDA
ROBEN	SAGAD
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	JIHAD WARRIOR / NOT ANOTHER THING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	SAGAD
REMAR	SAGAD
REMAR-2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAK
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	D' URAGONS
B	SAGAD
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-2	WINDTALKERS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GALING GALING
CINEMA-2	PAKISABI NA LANG
CINEMA-3	SAGAD
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	D' URAGONS
CINEMA-6	MEGGIDO
CINEMA-7	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-8	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-12	ABOUT A BOY
CINEMA-14	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-15	D' URAGONS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-6	SELDA
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 — WINDTALKERS 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 P13
CINEMA 2 — ABOUT A BOY 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00 P13
All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
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2nd 'BIG ADVENTURE' WEEK!
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED
STUART LITTLE 2
StuartLittle.com
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MTRCB RATING PG-13
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FACE/OFF AND M:I-2
NICOLAS CAGE
WINDTALKERS
"The Navajo Has The Code: Protect The Code At All Costs."
NOW SHOWING

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MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
Angora Films Released
Sam Elliott
Anne Ramsay
A Mad Bomber, on the City of the Edge!
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Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
AYALA CINEMAS

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FROM THE PRODUCERS OF INDEPENDENCE DAY AND GODZILLA
EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
Hate spiders? They don't like you either!
ELECTRIC
WARNER BROS.
101 KIK FM
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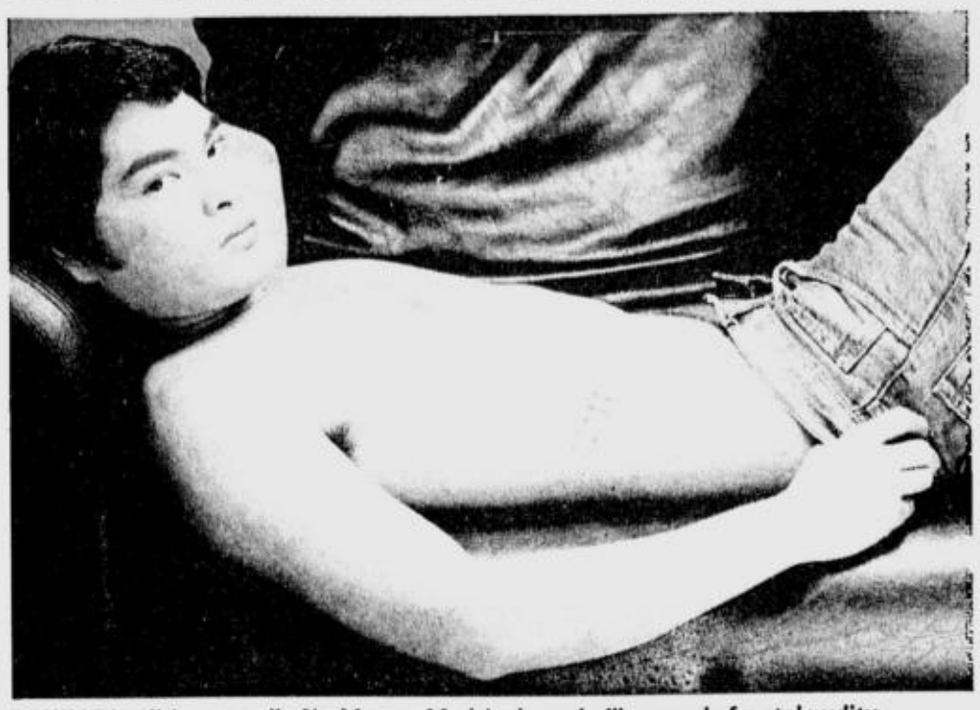

TAKING it off, but not all of it, Marcus Madrigal says he'll never do frontal nudity.

Marcus makes his mark

AS A BOY, Marcus Madrigal dreamed of becoming a lawyer because his paternal grandfather was one.

But fate stepped in. A TV guest appearance, which Marcus thought was just a one-time stint, led him to bigger things in show biz.

Movie scribe and talent scout Tonee Coraza, who is his neighbor, tapped Marcus to do a bit part in an episode of "Calvento Files" on ABS-CBN.

"Tonee was looking for talents for TV," Marcus recalls. "I was paid P500 for my role in that episode which starred Leandro Baldemor as a boxer."

Designer Bobby Yalung spotted him in that TV guest appearance and asked him if he was interested in a more permanent place in show biz.

"But he told me I had to work out to have a good body," Marcus grants. "He also changed my name from Marco to Marcus, because he said there are already other celebrities named Marco."

Marcus attended acting workshops under ABS-CBN and was later launched as a member of Star Circle Batch 6 with, among others, Carlo Muñoz.

Marcus had a big screen debut in Mario O'Hara's critically acclaimed "Sisa," which starred Aya Medel and Gardo Versoza. He played Basilio.

In his four-year contract with Regal, Marcus made his mark in in films with mostly adult themes—Lav Diaz's "Burger Boys" (with Gerald Madrid), Lito Casaje's "Batang Pro," Rico Ilarde's "Babaeng Putik" and Joey Reyes' "Live Show."

In Jeffrey Jeturian's "Pila Balde," he earned an Urian best actor citation.

Marcus gets his biggest break in "Ang Galing-Galing Mo Babes," where he figures in a passionate love scene with Joyce Jimenez. He also displays his derriere in the love scene.

"That's as far as I'll go when it comes to baring my body on the big screen," Marcus says. "I'll never do frontal nudity."

Marcus hopes to play more challenging and varied roles and to go beyond the bold genre.

"I want to play a psycho killer or a special child, because I have a brother who's a special child," he says.

The third and youngest boy in a brood of four, Marcus is able to enjoy his simple pleasures despite show biz. He still lives with his parents, who are both managing his career. He has maintained his friendship with his buddies outside show biz.

Marcus has also managed to continue his studies. He is a second-year management major at the International Academy of Management and Economics (IAME).

"I am aware that I can't be in this business forever," he says. "If I have a college degree, I can use that to get another job later on."

In the meantime, he is basking in the kleig lights and the cameras and the attention.

"I never imagined I would be in show biz," he says. "But now that I'm here, I might as well make the most of it." *Leah Salterio*

Godskitchen returns to NBC Tent

THE MASTERS of mega-dance club events are back as Big Fish, MTV Philippines, Smart Communications and Bench present the Godskitchen Global Dance Gathering party on Saturday, Aug. 10 at the NBC Tent.

Now on their second trip to the Philippines, the UK club Godskitchen highlights the third installment of "World Super Club Series 2002."

Having rocked Manila with the unforgettable Chicane, Slinky, Gatecrasher and Space Ibiza parties, Godskitchen promises to be another top-nother on the list of unforgettable parties that have stormed Manila.

For this party, expect the return of trance music in a big way with Big Fish resident DJ TC (a.k.a. Tuck Cheah) and UK DJ Darren Pearce headlining the show.

An 18-year veteran in the clubland dance scene, Darren Pearce's career has always been strong with residencies in over 12 UK clubs including Peach.

JASON SCOTT LEE

Acting just a supplement to his real passion

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
Contributor

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—He walks into the room looking like your idea of a Hawaiian hunk: muscular, tanned and has shoulder-length hair. He wears a puka shell necklace, blue unbuttoned short sleeves and black pants.

With a warm smile and a naughty look on his face, Jason Scott Lee, 36, immediately makes you feel comfortable.

The Disney Feature Animation Building located here in sunny Florida is the perfect setting for a laid-back interview with Lee, who is the voice of David Kawena, the Hawaiian surfer, fire-eating dude in Disney's latest blockbuster animation film, "Lilo & Stitch."

The story of an orphan girl named Lilo who meets an alien, Stitch, who accidentally lands in Hawaii, the comedy "Lilo & Stitch" also stars Filipina-American actress Tia Carrere (Nani), Daveigh Chase (Lilo), director-screenwriter Chris Sanders (Stitch) and Zoe Caldwell (Grand Councilwoman).

Lee, who made waves as Bruce Lee (no relation) in the biopic "Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story," as cub-boy Mowgli in "The Jungle Book" and as Aladdin in the TV series "Arabian Nights," also performed as the King in the musical "The King and I" at the London Palladium.

Authenticity

So how did Lee get the part in the Sanders-Dean DeBlois-directed "Lilo & Stitch"?

"I got the part because of Tia Carrere," the third-generation Chinese-Hawaiian actor reveals. "One day Tia excitedly called me up and said that we can do this movie together. And I remember telling her I wasn't sure if I could leave my ranch in Hawaii. But she said she has already recommended me and that the Disney folks were going to call me and they did. They offered me the job."

Lee, who moved to Oahu at the age of two, adds, "Knowing that Tia and I were going to be in the movie, I knew that they were aiming for some authenticity here. The directors really did a good job on their research on Hawaii. They were very observant, aware and respectful of the Hawaiian people and culture."

Top secret

Lee points out that Lilo's village looks like "a little place in Kauai that I know with its plantation homes." He adds that the hula scene is "very accurate with its music, movements and the presentation of the children. The surfing scenes have a lot of momentum and energy and it was exhilarating just watching them."

JASON Scott Lee voices David Kawena, the Hawaiian surfer, fire-eating dude in Disney's latest blockbuster animation film, "Lilo & Stitch."

"We trusted the directors with the story since we didn't know what it was all about," he says. "We only saw drawings of the characters but not the script. It was top secret. Everything was given to us on a piecemeal basis.

"In fact, we never saw the other actors in the movie until today."

Cool fellow

What does he think of his role as David Kawena, which was drawn by a Disney veteran, Filipino-American artist Ruben Aquino?

"David is the real image of the Hawaiian community," Lee explains. "He's a pretty cool fellow who accepts the Hawaiian attitude of 'ohana' or family, having room for everybody and nobody being left out. That's why he accepts the aliens into his world.

"He has this Hawaiian mentality of not worrying about things because these will all work out in the end anyway."

Sounds like our *"bahala na"* ("come what may") attitude.

Mutual friends

And the use of watercolor in the film?

"That was just perfect!" he exclaims. "The use of watercolor enhanced the beauty of the Hawaiian settings and makes the scenes really pop out. It brings out the liveliness of the colors in Hawaii. I don't think they would get the same effect if they used computer graphics."

How did he know Tia Carrere?

"We have mutual friends who have known each other for years since we're both from Hawaii," Lee discloses. "I used to read about her in the local papers.

"'The Hawaiian Girl Does Good!' " he adds with a chuckle.

"But we do hope we could work together in a film in Hawaii. That would be nice. It's fun to work with Tia."

How active is he in pushing for more roles for minority actors in Hollywood?

"Based on my last two projects, I think I am moving in a direction that is not particularly Asian but has a trickle down effect," he says. "The roles weren't written as Asian characters, but more of a general part. However, because filmmakers liked what I did for that part, other roles are coming in as a result."

Recognition

Lee, whose interest in acting started in high school, took formal lessons at Fullerton College in Orange County, California. Sal Romeo, his acting coach, encouraged him to pursue an acting career. This began when he landed a job at his very first audition. He was cast by comedian Cheech Marin as an illegal Asian immigrant trying to pass as a Chicano in the film "Born in East LA."

This role was followed by a very brief appearance in "Back to the Future Part II."

"I am really glad that minority actors are finally being recognized," he stresses. "Denzel Washington and Halle Berry winning Oscars for the very first time have indeed opened doors for all of us."

Lee is also active in theater. He has performed in several dramatic productions in Los Angeles with the Friends and Artists Theatre and in the Honolulu Kumu Kahua Theater's production of Edward Sakamoto's play, "Stew Rice."

Soil tiller

And he's a farmer, too.

"I'm a natural farmer," he proudly shares. "I till the soil, plow the fields, plant a variety of rice, vegetables and some herbal and medicinal plants.

"It's more of a way of going back to nature, a gentler approach to farming, a solution to our health problems since we'll be using natural products instead of generic products."

Then he firmly adds, "Actually, my real passion is farming. Acting is just a supplement."

Sexbomb Girls to launch debut album

THE PHENOMENAL all-girl dance group turned singing sensation Sexbomb Girls will perform at 7:30 tonight at Ratsky in Tomas Morato, to launch their debut album, "Unang Putok."

Formed five years ago by Joy Cancio for the "Meron o Wala" portion on GMA 7's noontime show, "Eat Bulaga," the girls popularized a unique dance step to Tom Jones' "Sexbomb," which prompted "Eat Bulaga" host Joey de Leon to christen them after the hit song.

The girls later popularized another dance step to Lou Bega's "Angelina," which gave BMG Records the idea to use the girls as image to a compilation album featuring the two dance hits.

This eventually led to the group's recording contract with BMG.

Watch the group perform their smash hit single, "Bakit Papa" and their latest offering, "Pretty Little Baby."

Other tracks in the album include "Crush Kita," "Di Ko Na Mapipigilan" and "Tulog na Baby."

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	2 8 LEGGED FREAKS			
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY	WINDTALKERS 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30	MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002	WINDTALKERS 12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20	ABOUT A BOY
3 D'URAGONS	4 MEN IN BLACK 2		AMELIE 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	STUART LITTLE 2
	STUART LITTLE 2	Onstage RICO J. PUNO IN SOMETHING WONDERFUL AUG. 16 - 9PM	8 LEGGED FREAKS 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	4 8 LEGGED FREAKS
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KILLING ME SOFTLY - R 18 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	MEN IN BLACK 2 P 13 11:45, 1.45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45	WINDTALKERS P 13 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

"HEAVEN" starring Cate Blanchett. Revenge, retribution and love in one glorious film.

Cinemanila organizers say 'censors surprisingly more tolerant' this year

By Marinel R. Cruz

"THIS IS is the most cooperative censors board so far," said Tikoy Aguiluz, director of the 2002 Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival.

Aguiluz and the other organizers of the Makati CIFF (notice the addition of "Makati" to the festival name) on Thursday lauded the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board for "stretching its rules and regulations" to accommodate four foreign films it had earlier disapproved for screening in the ongoing 15-day festival.

The festival opened Aug. 1 at Onstage in Greenbelt, Makati City. Filmmakers, critics and film producers from different countries attended the affair.

An MTRCB review committee had disapproved on first screening four films intended for the festival after the committee found the movies' contents too sexually suggestive.

The movies are Alfonso Cuaron's widely acclaimed "Y Tu Mama Tambien" from Mexico, Eric Eason's "Manito" from the US, Fruit Chan's "Hollywood Hong Kong" and Zhu Wen's "Seafood (Haixian)" from China.

Thank GMA

"After the second screening, the board decided that the films can be shown in their integral version," said Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, who is also the festival chair. "We have President Macapagal-Arroyo and MTRCB chair (Mari-len) Dinglasan to thank for that."

Makati 2nd District Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino said the MTRCB decided to allow the showing of the four films since they "will not be shown commercially anyway."

"Dinglasan has been very accommodating," Aquino said. "She also wants to help in making the Philippines the center of Asian filmmaking."

"PEONY PAVILLION." Best picture at the 13th Milan and Bologna International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

Aquino hosted the film festival's opening ceremony with Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos.

More tolerant

Last year, a review committee found certain scenes objectionable in Germany's short film "Erotic Tales" and suggested that they be deleted.

Aguiluz said the organizers are not authorized to delete any scene in any movie in the festival. They either get an approval for exhibition or not show the film at all.

"This year's MTRCB is surprisingly more tolerant than the board we worked with in the past," Aguiluz said.

He said the previous censors had disapproved more foreign films compared to this year.

More than 300 films from 38 countries are featured in the filmfest. Two critically acclaimed films were screened on the opening night, Tom Tykwer's "Heaven" from Germany and Wong Kar Wai's "In the Mood for Love" from Hong Kong.

Tribute

A total of 20 Filipino films and documentaries are also featured in the festival, including Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Bagong Buwan," Joel Lamangan's "Hubog" and Lav Diaz's "Batang West Side."

The festival pays tribute to multi-awarded director Mike de Leon in "Mike de Leon: The Thin Line between Genius and Sanity." Some of De Leon's films, like "Bayaning Third World," "Aliwan Paradise," "Bilanggo sa Dilim," "Itim," Kisapmata" and "Kakabakaba Ka Ba?", will be shown.

Guest of honor on opening night was Education Secretary Raul Roco, who recounted the early days of Cinemanila.

"The name CineManila is a creation of Lino Brocka," said Roco, who was part of that outfit. "He believed that there is no limit to what the human spirit can do."

He said Brocka made Cinemanila's first film, "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang," even when he knew that the company was cash-strapped. "The farmers in Laguna and fishermen in Laguna de Bay contributed. And sometimes I wonder when we could repay them for their equity," Roco said. "Tinimbang" won nine out of the 14 Famas awards in 1974.

"When we closed shop, the only thing that remained was the name CineManila," Roco said.

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Stuart Little grows up

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE visuals in the first "Stuart Little" film were delightful enough, but its sequel, "Stuart Little 2," benefits greatly from the advances in computer animation that have been made in the last few years.

This time around, Stuart's look is livelier and more detailed, with tufts of fur exquisitely drawn, moving naturally in the wind, etc. Even more strikingly, Stuart is shown growing up, having his first crush, chafing when he's treated like a kid by his over-protective mom (Geena Davis), etc.

Stuart's new friend is a mysterious little bird, Margalo, who literally drops from the sky into his life. She's being pursued by a nasty falcon that has broken her wing, and it's a good thing that Stuart has happened along to act as her protector.

In no time at all, Margalo becomes a member of the Little family, and everything is great until the other side to Stuart's new friend is revealed.

This is when Stuart is forced to take action to save Margalo from the evil falcon—and also from herself. Margalo's problems take their toll not just on her, but also on Stuart, and for the first time, we see him looking troubled, with worry lines on his face, and all. Yes, our mouse-boy hero is growing up!

"Stuart Little 2" is visually creative and dynamic, but it falls short of being a thoroughly enchanting viewing experience because its storyline is too thin.

The twist to Margalo's character and the danger posed by the predatory falcon aren't enough to keep the movie's interest and excitement level up.

If a "Stuart Little 3" is in the works, the franchise's producers should make sure that it has a much more eventful storyline, and more nasty characters to oppose Stuart at every turn.

The animated characters in "Stuart Little 2" run away with the film, but kudos are still in order for the live-action performers in the movie, who comprise the human members of the Little family—Geena Davis, **Jonathan Lipnicki**, etc. They manage to hold their own in their scenes with the animated Stuart, Margalo and Snowbell, a tough feat for any actor to pull off.

We also like the fact that Stuart and George Little are given a friend who's an African American boy. This gives a good example to young viewers to also be non-discriminatory in their own choice of friends.

Movies on TV

ON THE Cinemax channel: Thursday, Aug. 8 at 12:30 p.m., "Project Greenlight 4: Don't Be Alarmed By This Menu." 1 p.m., "The Green Mile." 7:15 p.m., "Black Moon Rising."

Friday, Aug. 9 at 7:30 a.m., "Riders of the Purple Sage." 9:15 a.m., "American History X." 12:45 p.m., "Cry Freedom." 7:30 p.m., "Beethlejuice." 2:15 a.m., "The Deep."

Saturday, Aug. 10 at 10:30 a.m., "Stand and Deliver." 5:30 p.m., "Snow Falling on Cedars." Sunday, Aug. 11 at 8:30 a.m., "The Whole Nine Yards." 3:45 a.m., "Cinema Secrets 13: Hostile Takeovers."

Monday, Aug. 12 at 2 p.m., "Romanoff and Juliet." 3:45 p.m., "Aliens Among Us." 8:30 p.m., "Project Greenlight 5: The Crunch of Time." Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 2:15 a.m., "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas."

Wednesday, Aug. 14 at 1:30 p.m., "Marnie." 5:30 p.m., "Where Are My Children." 4:45 a.m., "Stand and Deliver."

New TV season

ON AUG. 9, a new season of "Traders" starts telecasting on Star World (Fridays at 8 p.m., replays on Saturdays at 1:30 a.m. and Mondays at 12 noon).

The drama series centers on an independent merchant bank in Toronto. It dramatizes the loves and lives, the mystique and machinations of investment bankers whose high-stakes decisions can have grave international consequences. Stars include **Sonja Smits**, **David Cubit** and **Bruce Gray**.

Storylines this month: Aug. 9, "Chaos Theory": An apparently random act of violence strikes the firm. Sally and the firm regroup, Marty proves that there's profit in chaos, and Jansky has a breakdown.

Aug. 16, "The Natari Affair": Jack must secure a half-billion-dollar deal with an Arab prince, while Adam tends to his ailing, and Sally struggles to deal with the loss of her father.

Aug. 23, "High Flyer Down": It looks like bad dreams do happen in threes, as a shifty past acquaintance of Jack's collects a favor; Jack tries to turn his delinquent nephew's life around; and the firm's trading records are lost on one of the busiest days of the year.

Aug. 30, "Trudy Kelly": Trudy Kelly, The Canadian queen of the Do-It-Yourself media, wants the firm to help her take control of her corporate destiny; Cathy tries to prove herself a as trading technician; and Adam must deal with his chronically-ill wife's wish to die.

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Peso recovers; dollar reserves dip

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO yesterday strengthened slightly to 51.69 to a dollar even as the country's foreign exchange reserves dropped by $790 million to $16.118 billion in July.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura blamed the continued weakness in regional currencies for the decline of the peso to as low as 51.93 to $1 during early trading yesterday.

Last Tuesday, the peso fell to 51.77 following days of volatility aggravated by rumors in the market last week on the resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

While the finance chief had assured that he was staying and had no plans of quitting his post, the market remained edgy because of weak regional currencies.

Traders said investors, particularly exporters, chose to take profit yesterday afternoon and decided to unload their dollars, easing the constraint on the supply that was driving the local currency down.

The peso's weakness was also seen as seasonal as it is this time of the year that demand for dollars by importers pick up for their Christmas inventory build-up.

Yesterday's transactions reached $214.3 million from $162.1 million last Tuesday.

Buenaventura said the central bank did not sell dollars to prop up the peso.

He also denied that frequent intervention had been the cause of the decline in the country's gross international reserves from $16.908 billion in June.

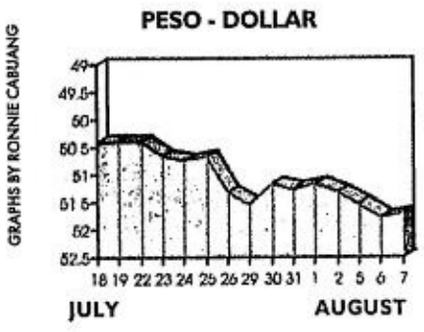
"The drop in the GIR was expected as the government settles its maturing obligations," Buenaventura said.

Comprised mainly of US dollars, the GIR is the total foreign

PESO/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 51.69 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 7, 2002

¥ 120.76 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 7, 2002

GOLD: $307.20/307.70
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 7, 2002

US agency registers RP securities

THE PHILIPPINES has received the go-ahead of the US Securities and Exchange Commission to issue as much as $1.2 billion worth of bonds in the United States.

The US SEC had informed government officials "verbally" of the approval but the official notification has yet to be made.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the registration made last month was not for any particular borrowing.

"We don't want to confuse the market, there is no new borrowing. We just want a shelf registration to expedite whatever new transactions we would have in the future," the finance chief said.

Camacho said the registration could be used only by the national government, dispelling beliefs that part of the $1.2 billion would be used by the state-owned National Power Corp. in its planned foreign fund-raising in the coming months.

The new securities registration with the US SEC was the government's second for the year. *Clarissa Batino*

RP, Asian marts bounce back after Wall St. rally

ASIAN share markets sprang back to life yesterday, taking their cue from a resurgent Wall Street and hopes a US interest rate cut could help lift demand in the world's largest economy.

Asian investors welcomed Tuesday's 2.9-percent bounce in the Dow Jones industrials and an even more impressive 4.4-percent jump in the technology-heavy Nasdaq but opinions were divided on the outlook for Wall Street and global markets.

The main Philippine share index closed marginally higher yesterday as bargain hunters bought select blue chips following Wall Street's strong recovery overnight, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended broadly mixed but up 5.95 points, or 0.6 percent, at 1,091.16, after falling 30.10 points, or 2.7 percent on Tuesday, to 1,085.21, its lowest close in nearly nine months. Decliners led gainers 22 to 17, while 34 issues were unchanged.

In Tokyo, where the Nikkei 225 index leapt 3.5 percent, Keiji Numata, general manager of the investment information at Toyo Securities, said there was an emerging view US equities were finally coming out of a vicious downward spiral.

"The Nasdaq index has already fallen to a quarter of its peak, and past experience shows that no equity market, except for very rare cases, has ever suffered more than that," he said.

But a dealer with Credit Suisse First Boston in Sydney said Wall Street's gains looked like a bear market rally rather than the start of a bull run.

The Nikkei-225 average of the Tokyo Stock Exchange rose 333.38 points to close at 9,834.40.

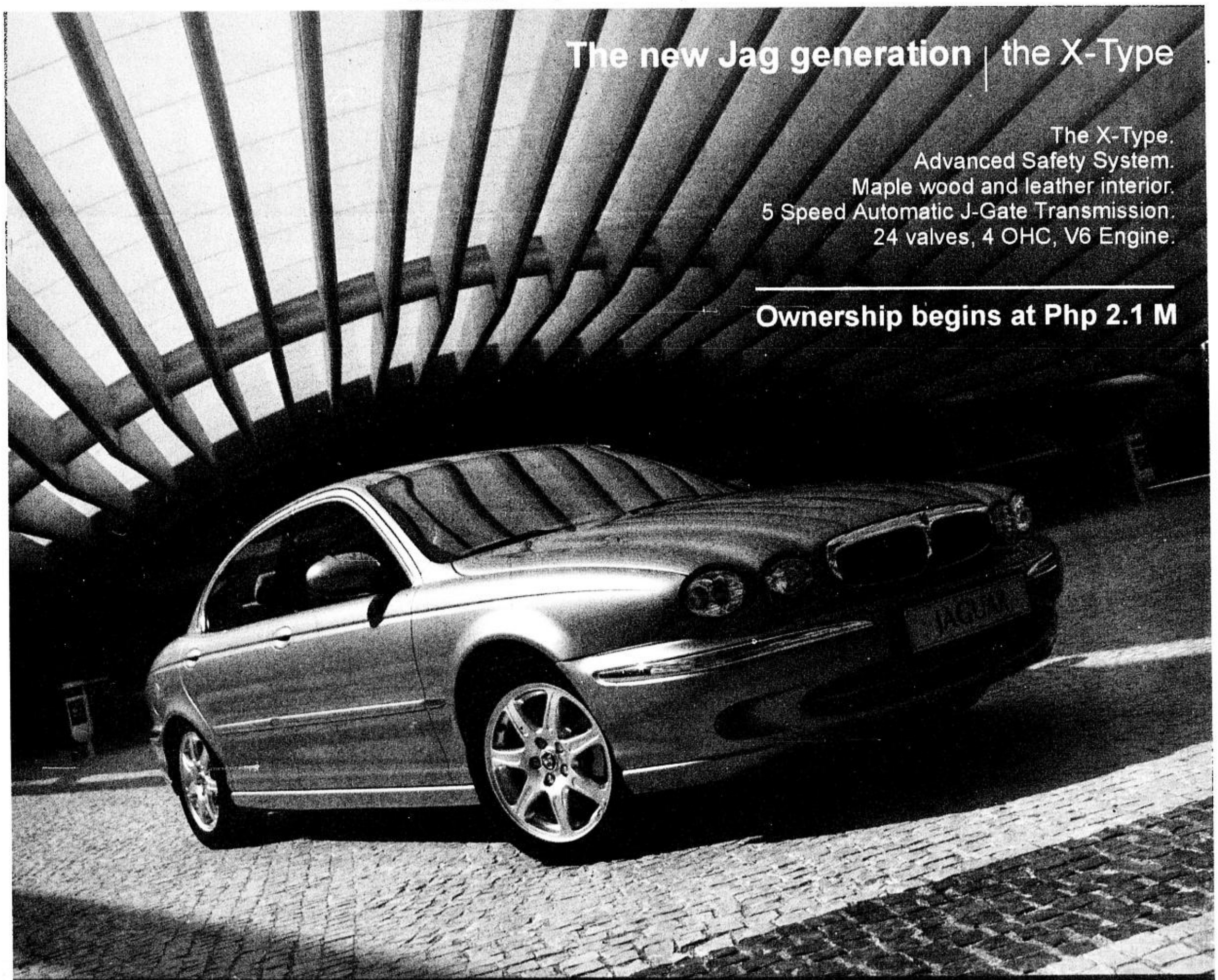
In Hong Kong, the key Hang Seng index rose 2 percent to close the morning at 9,892.81.

OCBC Securities associate director Peter Lai said the Hong Kong market was likely to remain volatile until a clearer trend emerged overseas.

While there might be some enthusiasm over the likelihood of a US rate cut at a Federal Reserve meeting next week, the impact would likely be short-lived and purely psychological, he said.

Australia's SP/ASX 200 index gained 2.2 percent to 3,051.0 points, South Korea's composite index closed up 0.8 percent at 679.37 and Taiwan's weighted index rose 3.2 percent to 4,720.73.

In Singapore, the Straits Times index closed the morning session up 1.5 percent at 1,488.83 points. *AFP*



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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IN the beginning, still perspiring from the protest rallies in Edsa, the economic team of this cute administration of Gloriaetta made one big boast to the world.

And that was, this cute administration would never be like the squandering blundering plundering administration of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

With much applause from the business community, of course, the economic team swore that this cute administration would exercise . . . well, "fiscal discipline."

Thus the economic team vowed they would reduce the budget deficit slowly over the years. Moreover, they promised to wipe it out eventually.

Because of such a promise, nobody is surprised anymore that, today, in less than two years since they made it, the very same deficit is now ready for an increase.

* * *

EGGING this cute administration to raise the budget deficit next year were its allies in Congress, particularly those who attended the Ledac meeting the other day.

If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and talks like a duck, it must be Ledac. Thus the Legislative—Executive Development Advisory Council strikes again.

Ledac is deeply concerned with the budget. Its members want a higher budget for 2003—only about P20 billion more.

Now, Ledac came about during the time of Kuya Eddie. Its formation would serve to speed up the legislation which the Ramos administration wanted then. Officially!

Unofficially, Ledac could also allow the executive to do away with the system of check and balance, particularly between the legislature and the executive.

Thus, the executive puts together the yearly budget, and the legislature pores over it. This helps settle vital issues like, well, how much should be the congressional pork.

* * *

MY only problem is, the economic team of this cute administration does not know where in the world can they get the money to cover the extra P20 billion. Not from me!

That's not a problem, the Ledac goes, because this cute administration can just break its vow of fiscal discipline, and—presto—it can go for higher budget deficit.

The higher budget for 2003, as per the Ledac meeting, can then help stimulate the economy through more government spending. I see!

If that is so, why do they want to limit the budget increase to only P20 billion? Why can't this cute administration spend a hundred billion more?

For if the extra P20 billion in government spending is good for the country, then P100 billion more must be much, much better.

Anyway, the 2003 budget is really just an election year budget. Now the only problem, what part of the extra P20 billion will go to pork?

* * *

FOR indication of where the economy is heading, some analysts always look at the performance of San Miguel Corp. Well, it's the country's biggest business.

In the second quarter last year, its sales amounted to P29 billion. This year, in the second quarter, San Miguel posted sales of about P35 billion—for a P6-billion increase.

The hefty increase may indicate that the people of San Miguel did not sleep during those three months, and they worked like zombies to market their products.

The jump in sales, a hefty 17 percent, may also indicate that the economy is picking up, since historically, consumer spending always starts our economic turnaround.

Or it may indicate a lot of earth-shaking news, which means a lot of deadline pressure on news people, which in turn requires a lot of bear-drinking afterward.

* * *

BUT what's amazing in San Miguel's second-quarter performance was the growth in profits. While sales grew by 17 percent, its profits grew by 27 percent.

There are several ways to raise profits. You can raise prices, for instance, or you cut costs by laying off people. San Miguel did not do either.

For reasons behind the jump in its profits, stock market reports pointed to San Miguel's acquisitions last year, namely Coca Cola, Purefoods and Cosmos.

They said San Miguel is realizing the benefits of the acquisition. You know—all those management concepts like efficiencies, integration and economies of scale.

The point is, anyway, San Miguel is not done yet shopping for companies. It still has about $1 billion—cash! As we all know, money begets more money!

* * *

ANIANO Desierto does not say he has retired from government. It's just that he already finished his term as ombudsman. Of course he is eyeing another government position.

Desierto has been nominated to the Supreme Court. No wonder, his best friend, Ernesto Francisco, is bugging him again.

Francisco is the lawyer who, only a few months ago, figured prominently in the impeachment complaint against Desierto in the House of Representatives.

I heard that Francisco filed a criminal complaint against Desierto with the Department of Justice, rehashing the claims he made in tile impeachment case.

For instance, Francisco alleged that Desierto, personally, received an amount of P500,000. In news interviews, he then reduced the amount to P400,000.

I don't know if that's supposed to be a discount, but the last time I checked, the House of Representatives already dismissed Francisco's complaint against Desierto.

The House justice committee dismissed his complaint for lack of substance, meaning, down here, he did not have anything to back up, except his word for it.

The same complaint, dismissed by the House committee, was filed with the DOJ. Well, the DOJ can always recycle the paper the complaint is written on.

Manila Polo board challenges oppositors to a public debate

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE INCUMBENT board of the Manila Polo Club has challenged its detractors, specifically the self-styled Good Governance team, to a public debate on allegations of mismanagement of the club's funds which has divided the club's affluent members.

The debate will be held during a Town Hall meeting at the clubhouse on Aug. 15 or 11 days before the MPC's annual elections with Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia R. Bautista as moderator.

In an interview, MPC president Policarpo L. Ascalon said the board was keen on turning the tables on its critics led by former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo and Central Bank Governor Jose L. Cuisia Jr. for "irresponsibly" spouting half-truths and baseless allegations against the board members.

Contrary to allegations by the Good Governance team, Ascalon said the board had been fully transparent about its actions and that it had fully complied with all of the club's by-laws. "We believe the board has been a good example of what good governance is unlike its critics who are merely sloganeering and not practicing these values," Ascalon said.

Ascalon said the MPC board had been candid about the club's financial position and what his team planned to do to stop the bleeding, which were all published in the MPC's newsletter, The Polo Post.

As early as July 2001, Ascalon said he warned members that the club's losses would further balloon to P65 million this year from P40.6 million last year if the board would not institute key measures that have long been on the drawing board.

He said the board identified the culprits as the extremely high manpower and electricity costs; rising taxes; low membership dues (P700 a month); increase in the use and cost of supplies; losses from food and beverage operations; losses from sports and games operations; and increases in professional fees. He said the board also informed its members of its plan to restructure, contain costs, and outsource some of the club's services.

Ascalon's said the board's strategy had been successful as it limited the club's losses due to substantial savings and profits generated by its cost-cutting (it retrenched its employees and trimmed the organization levels) and outsourcing moves (it bid out the F&B to a professional caterer). "I am confident that the club will start earning profits by 2003 and this is the legacy that the board will leave to this club," Ascalon said.

Ascalon cited a letter from the chair of the MPC fact-finding committee, Rizalino S. Navarro, to refute the Good Governance team's allegations against the board.

In his letter, Navarro said: "I am willing to state that the reports, based on the information and documentation provided to us, do not indicate any dishonesty or personal pecuniary gains on the part of any persons covered by the reports."

PAPALINO'S

Breakfast 110

Lunch/Dinner 288

G/F El Pueblo, ADB Ave. Cor. Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City.

Tel.: 632-7117, 632-7605

Attention: Shareholders of

PHILEX MINING CORPORATION

The Company is in the process of updating its stockholder records so that all notices of meeting, annual and interim reports, and other correspondences from the Company are sent to its shareholders properly.

In case there is any change in your mailing address, please advise the Company by filling out the form below and sending it to:

Fidelity Stock Transfers, Inc.
2/F Vernida I Condominium
120 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village
1229 Makati City

or you may fax it to: **(632) 818-1038**

PHILEX MINING CORPORATION
c/o Fidelity Stock Transfers, Inc.

Change of Mailing Address

Stockholder's Name : _____

Mailing Address From : _____

_____

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To : _____

_____

_____

Specimen Signature : _____

DISCLOSURES

SAN Miguel Corp. and **La Tondeña Distillers Inc.** will hold today an investors' briefing on the two companies' financial results for the first half of 2002, at 2:30 p.m., 2/F Magellan's Gallery, San Miguel Properties Centre, Mandaluyong City. Also, La Tondeña declared a P0.375-per-share cash dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of Aug. 23 which will be payable on Sept. 20.

* * *

NEGROS Navigation Co. Inc. announced the resignation of Virgenito Torcal as treasurer. Torcal will remain the company's corporate information officer. Replacing him is Menchie Parcon.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Ever-Gotesco Resources Holdings Inc.** has authorized its president Jose Go to receive and sign, for and in behalf of the company, the amount of P14 million for security, traffic and sanitary service expenses and another P4.5 million for utilities.

* * *

EAST Asia Power Resources Corp. will reduce the number of its directors from nine to seven. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, August 7, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16	16	15.25	15.25	189,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	44	42.5	43	1,373,900
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	29	29	147,400
First E-Bank Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	37,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33.5	34.5	33.5	34.5	64,300
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	3,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	18	18	11,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1200	1210	1200	1210	3,280
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	890	895	890	895	850
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	13,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.58	2,210,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	500	500	485	495	6,350
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	100,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	1,300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	14,000
Pltel	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	800,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	285	290	282.5	282.5	166,340
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.013	0.013	0.011	0.012	1,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	19	18.75	18.75	21,200
Manila Electric Co. B	27	27	26.5	27	98,500
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.72	1.66	1.7	2,513,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	35,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.42	213,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.35	426,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	40,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12	12	12	232,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	9,600
RFM Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	200,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	47	46	47	226,200
San Miguel Corp. B	51	51.5	51	51	318,900
Universal Robina Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	32,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	442,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	35,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	3,920,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.02	0.025	0.02	0.025	1,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	200,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	10.75	11.5	10.75	11.5	625,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.0825	0.08	0.08	1,300,000
Ionics Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	72,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.3	1.3	1,007,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	180,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	1,240,000
Music Corp.	0.14	0.19	0.14	0.17	2,280,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	30,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	590,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	20	20	20	20	200
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	340,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.75	21.75	21.5	21.5	411,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	5,280,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	460,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	1,750,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,190,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.78	1.78	5,384,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.15	0.215	0.15	0.18	1,530,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	3,880,000
UrbanCorp.Realty Dev. Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
MINING					
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	123,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,845,030	74,036,585.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	24,155,190	115,253,365.00
PRO	19,604,000	62,405,550.00
Mining	10,000	2,600.00
OIL	123,000,000	344,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	168,614,220	252,042,500.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	436.43	UP 6.87
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,498.89	UP 3.71
PRO	504.89	DOWN 1.29
Mining	1,088.25	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.35	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	630.97	UP 9.16
Composite	1,091.16	UP 5.95

NO. OF ADVANCES: 17; NO. OF DECLINES: 22; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 73; NO. OF TRADES: 1,514

CURRENCIES

Aug. 7, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.033805	1.000000	51.7440
Japan	Yen	0.008563	0.008283	0.4286
United Kingdom	Pound	1.591337	1.539300	79.6495
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.132541	0.128207	6.6339
Switzerland	Franc	0.685911	0.663482	34.3312
Canada	Dollar	0.652449	0.631114	32.6564
Singapore	Dollar	0.583873	0.564780	29.2240
Australia	Dollar	0.545256	0.527426	27.2911
Bahrain	Dinar	2.742335	2.652661	137.2593
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.275666	0.266652	13.7976
Brunei	Dollar	0.586623	0.567440	29.3616
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000110	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.024279	0.023485	1.2152
UAE	Dirham	0.281499	0.272294	14.0896
Korea	Won	0.000862	0.000834	0.0432
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.967300	50.0520
Argentina	Real	0.286372	0.277008	14.3335
Brazil	Real	0.323064	0.312500	16.1700
Denmark	Kroner	0.134566	0.130166	6.7353
India	Rupee	0.021258	0.020563	1.0640
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.272090	0.263193	13.6187
Mexico	New Peso	0.105244	0.102770	5.3177
New Zealand	Dollar	0.465218	0.450005	23.2851
Norway	Kroner	0.132476	0.128144	6.6307
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017404	0.016835	0.8711
South Africa	Rand	0.097403	0.094218	4.8752
Sweden	Kroner	0.106936	0.103439	5.3523
Syria	Pound	0.020113	0.019455	1.0067
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030604	0.029603	1.5318
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000768	0.000743	0.0384

Peso recovers . . .

From page B1

currency holdings of the central bank. Strong reserves provide a psychological boost to the peso since it means that the BSP would have enough dollars to quell any speculation.

The central bank chief pointed out that the government's aggressive foreign fund-raising during the first quarter of the year drove the dollar reserves to an all-time high of $17.36 billion.

As the government paid out its debts, the reserves naturally declined, Buenaventura pointed out.

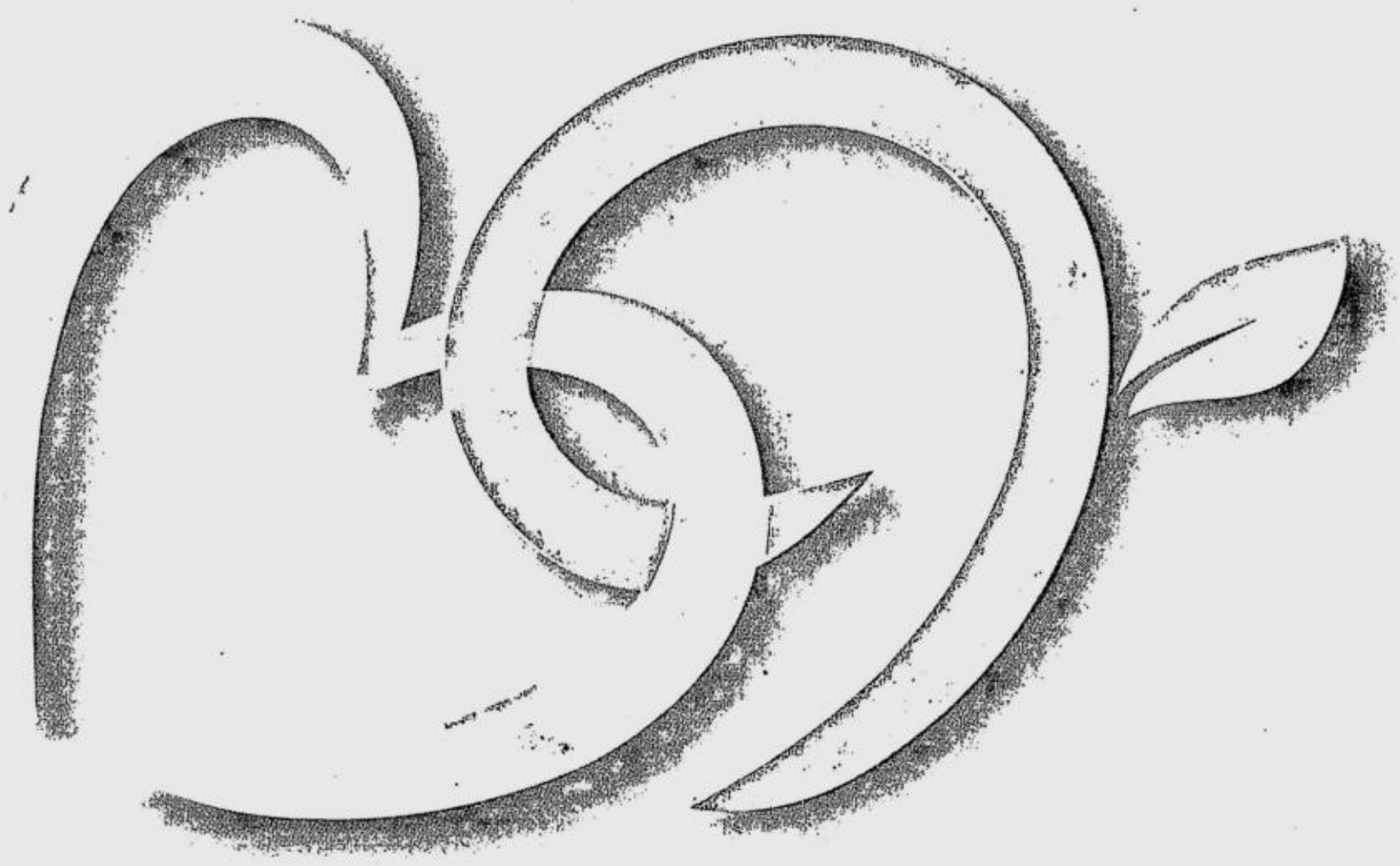
National Treasurer Sergio Edeza, however, said no substantial payments were made in July except for a $180-million loan that the state-owned National Power Corp. settled last month.

Buenaventura stressed that the current level of reserves could adequately cover for about five months' worth of imports of goods and services and more than three times the amount of the country's debts maturing within a one-year period.

The BSP chief noted that the central bank was targeting a modest $14.8 billion in reserves by year's end.

A banking analyst agreed that the strong GIR was superficial since much of the funds boosting the reserves would be withdrawn from the central bank's vaults within the year to pay for $1.5 billion worth of national government debts and $1 billion of the Napocor's maturing borrowings.

Tatag ng Samahan Sagisag ng Kaunlaran



Ang pagbubuklod ng puso at pagtitibay ng samahan ay bahagi na ng buhay ng LANDBANK. Lahat ng aming inani sa kahabaan ng panahon ay bunga ng makabuluhang galing at pagtutulung-tulong.

Sa aming ika-39 na taon, pinagbubunyi namin ang panibagong lakas, panibagong mga samahan, at marami pang panahong paglilingkod at pagsasama-sama tungo sa tuluy-tuloy na kaunlaran ng magiting na Pilipino!

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

LANDBANK: 39 strong years of countryside service

• Released cumulative agrarian loans (1982-2002) of P115 billion, making it the principal source of credit for the agriculture sector

• Remitted a total of P10.1 billion in cash and stock dividends to the national government

• Consistently ranked among the top five commercial banks in terms of assets, loans, deposits and capital

• Established its presence in all 79 provinces of the country

• Erected its own headquarters in Malate, Manila

These are among the highlights of LANDBANK's 39 years of strong existence which is characterized by major accomplishments and challenges.

From its role as the financing arm of the government agrarian reform program, LANDBANK has evolved to become the principal source of credit for the agriculture sector today. It has likewise ranked among the country's top five commercial banks, a proof of its efficient and sustainable operation.

For 39 years, LANDBANK has striven to provide financial and technical assistance to key players in countryside development, particularly small farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives. It has adopted a unique strategy: a complementation of its agrarian and universal banking operations.

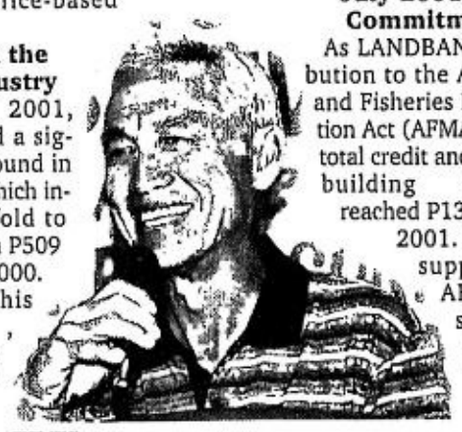
This makes LANDBANK's mandate unique," LANDBANK president and CEO Gary Teves said. "We plow back the profits we generate from our universal banking operations to the rural areas. The challenge for us is to deliver the credit needs of the people in the countryside, at the same time, attain a certain level of profitability," Teves explained.

LANDBANK is also a major contributor to the national government's coffer, with total cash and stock dividend of P10.1 billion declared and paid from 1975 to 2001.

Early this year, LANDBANK has transferred to its new headquarters – called the LANDBANK Plaza – in Malate, Manila. It is a 34-storey building which houses around 1,700 head office-based employees.

Status in the banking industry

In 2001, LANDBANK had a significant turn-around in its net income which increased three-fold to P1.5 billion from P509 million in end-2000.



TEVES

As of June this year, LANDBANK's net income expanded by 11 percent and reached P833 million from P751 million during the same period last year. This was brought about largely by growth in revenues, lower cost of funds and effective cost management measures.

Meanwhile, the Bank's total resources reached P239 billion as of June 2002, thus enabling LANDBANK to maintain its ranking as the fifth largest bank in the industry in terms of assets. LANDBANK investment portfolio increased by P29 billion and reached P94 billion as compared from last year's P65 billion. Its capital base also increased by 11 percent to P20 billion.

Loans to Priority Sectors

LANDBANK complemented its financial gains with an aggressive support to its priority sectors: small farmers and fisherfolk, SME and microenterprises, agri-infrastructure, agribusiness and agri-related projects.

LANDBANK targets to increase the share of its priority sectors in the overall loan portfolio from 38 percent in December 2001 to 45 percent by end 2002.

For the six-month period January to June 2002, total loans granted to small farmers and fisherfolk amounted to P6.4 billion or 9 percent higher than the P5.8 billion released for the same period last year. These were channeled through 1,011 cooperatives and 377 countryside financial institutions benefiting almost 215,000 small farmers and fisherfolk.

July 2001 SONA Commitments

As LANDBANK's contribution to the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) program, total credit and capability-building assistance reached P13.9 billion in 2001. The Bank's support to AFMA represented 121 percent of the targeted P10.1 billion committed for 2001. About 319,000 small farmers and fisherfolk benefited from the credit outreach which also generated an estimated 123,000 new jobs in 2001.

For the period January to June 2002, LANDBANK's credit assistance under AFMA reached P6.4 billion. This represents 49.7 percent of LANDBANK's commitment to deliver P14.7 billion in credit assistance in CY 2002. The P6.4 billion in credit releases directly benefited about 168,000 farmers and fisherfolk and translates to 25,000 additional new jobs.

As a key player in the government land reform program, LANDBANK's CARP land transfer output reached 46,540 hectares of private agricultural lands in 2001, which amounted to P1.78 billion.

The DAR, with LANDBANK as the implementing institution, is targeting 50,000 hectares for distribution this year, with total land output registered at 13,303 hectares for the five-month period January to May.

In the process of compensating the CARP-affected landowners, LANDBANK has been advancing its own funds since August 1998 to service the payments to landowners. Total advances made by LANDBANK for CARP reached P1.71 billion as of May 31, 2002.

The country's micro, small and medium enterprises also continue to get ample support from LANDBANK as total outstanding loans to this sector rose by 5 percent to P13.6 billion as of May 2002 from P12.95 billion in June 2001.

In micro-finance, LANDBANK's attached agency—the People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC) — has reached out to 621,349 poor women beneficiaries. This is already 106 percent of the institutional target outreach of 586,943 beneficiaries for 2002 and about 62 percent on the target of one million poor households reached by 2004.

Cumulative loans granted by the PCFC to micro-enterprises reached P3.6 billion as of June 2002. This benefited small market vendors, sari-sari storeowners, home-based handicrafts manufacturers, small traders and service providers, among others.

Other Major Initiatives

LANDBANK has also taken concrete measures to shorten the standard processing time for production loans to farmers' coops from 75 days to 45 days. This reduction measure took effect in April this year.

The Bank also increased the approving levels of loan signatories to facilitate loan approval and processing at the field level. "LANDBANK group heads have authority to approve loans up to P10 million, regional heads up to P3 million and branch managers up to P1 million," Teves explained. He added that this strategic decentralization of authorities for co-op loans has been taken to facilitate loan processing and approval at the field level, without elevating it to the head office.

LANDBANK is continuing its LBP – LGU Co-op Strengthening Program by forging partnerships with development partners. These tie-ups with LGUs help strengthen 1,459 co-ops nationwide.

To further support these coops in terms of the provision of auditing services, LANDBANK initiated and assisted in the establishment of five self-regulatory audit bodies with common performance standards. These are in Batangas, Agusan del Sur, General Santos, Cebu and Tacloban.

LANDBANK continues to implement a responsive and flexible Debt Restructuring /Relief Program for Bank-assisted Cooperatives and their small farmers and fisherfolk members nationwide.

This is aimed at assisting cooperatives and their members who were not able to pay their obligations with the Bank but who remain willing and capable to pay given a more flexible payment scheme. From 1992 to end-April 2002, total restructured loans of cooperatives amounted to P7.5 billion.

LANDBANK also provides additional working capital loan to co-ops to augment the financing of projects and operations.

Overcoming Challenges

While the Bank has taken major strides in fulfilling its social mandate, it still faces several hurdles relative to its pursuit of countryside development. One major challenge confronting the Bank is the funding gap in the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

"For the first time in the history of the Bank, we are going to absorb about P750 million CARP-related expenses. To accommodate this, we have to look for alternative sources of income or bring down our expenses to a more manageable level," Teves said.

Since August 1998, the Bank has been using its own funds for CARP. In 2001, total advances amounted to P2.3 billion.

LANDBANK is also faced with its high level of non-performing assets (NPAs) which stood at P41.7 billion as of June 2002. These make up 17.4 percent of the Bank's total assets. Of these, non-performing loans amount to P27.9 billion while Real and Other Properties Owned or Acquired (ROPOA) account for P13.8 billion.

"If we can bring down these non-earning assets to industry average, then the amount we can generate from the reduction of our NPAs or non-performing loans can be translated into more lending to our priority sectors," Teves said.

The Bank is also continuously working on the improvement of its operations by investing more on trainings and technology. Teves added, "Since we are in the service sector, we need to be more competitive in the area of customers relations."

More challenges are expected to confront LANDBANK. Changes in the industry will not spare the Bank either. But one thing is sure to remain – and that is the Bank's commitment to pursue its mandate for countryside development. And until this goal is realized, LANDBANK will continue to do its role.

"The real test for us is to make an impact in the lives of our priority clients – the farmers, fisherfolk and small entrepreneurs. Likewise, LANDBANK will continue to be a major player in various development programs of the government," Teves said.

Landbank honors exemplary cooperatives

TODAY, no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will confer the awards to this year's winners of the Gawad sa Pinakatanging Kooperatiba (Gawad PITAK).

LANDBANK established the Gawad PITAK in 1991 to recognize the exemplary performance of selected cooperatives around the country. Qualified co-ops have to pass three selection levels: provincial, regional and national based on criteria assessing their accomplishments in and for the community wherein they operate.

This year, 12 finalists qualified for the award, six co-ops each under the agri-based and non-agri-based categories.

This year's Gawad PITAK board of judges is chaired by Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon and co-chaired by Rep. Generoso D.C. Tulagan, with LANDBANK president and CEO Gary B. Teves as the vice-chairperson.

The members include Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, Jr., Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor; Agrarian Secretary Hernani Braganza; Rep. Agapito Aquino; Paul Schafer, resident representative of the Hanns Seidel Foundation, Jose Medina, Jr., chair of the Cooperative Development Authority; Rafael Gayaso, chair of the Philippine Partnership for Rural Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas; Dr. Ofelia M. Carague, president of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines; and Antonio Arañas, chair of the National Confederation of Cooperatives.

This year's finalists for the Gawad PITAK are:

AGRI-BASED CATEGORY

LAGAWE MULTI-PURPOSE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE
Lamut, Ifugao

The cooperative was established in 1984 by a group of 31 teachers and farmers with an initial capital of P5,750. Today, its total assets is P75 million while its members multiplied to 2,208. It also posted an income of P2.6 million as of end-December 2001.

The co-op accepts saving deposits, and credit windows providing salary loans to low-income earning employees, production loans to farmers and small entrepreneurs, providential loans to members in need, including loans for tuition and other fees of students.

The coop is also responsible in bringing television and cable signals to Ifugao. It also operates a consumer store and appliance center which provide low-cost goods and appliances.

The co-op also exerts effort in reaching other provinces where Ifugaos have migrated, including the recently opened branch in Cabarroguis, Quirino.

DIFFUN CREDIT AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE
Diffun, Quirino

Located in Diffun, Quirino, the cooperative started in 1998 with only P5,200 in capital provided by its 51 teacher and farmer-members. Its primary aim was to extend credit assistance to its members.

As of end-December 2001, the co-op has 1,113 members with total paid-up capital of P15.2 million and generated total time/savings deposits of P6.9 million. The co-op's assets have also reached P 36.3 million from only P101,000 when it started.

DICREDECO has a wide array of services that includes savings and time deposits, loans (petty cash, emergency, regular, multi-purpose, salary and livelihood), transport services, mutual and death aids. It also offers continuous education, seminar and trainings to members, staff and officers. Likewise, the co-op has funded various livelihood programs such as inland fish culture, crop/livestock production, furniture making, food processing, handmade paper and fossilized flower making. Today, its total loan portfolio has reached P38 million.

DICREDECO is considered as one of the region's biggest co-ops in terms of business operations such as crop production, relending, freight services, savings/time deposits, appliance marketing and inputs trading. In addition to owning an office in the town's central business district, the co-op has also started construction of a P5-million edifice which will serve as its new office and training center.

The co-op contributes significantly in various community development programs in all 33 barangays of Diffun such as health services, reforestation, street cleaning and sports development.

TAYABAS COMMUNITY MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE
Tayabas, Quezon

The Tayabas Community MPC was established in 1965 to keep coconut farmers from borrowing money from moneylenders. Initially operated as a parish-based coop, it was modified into a community-based co-op operating in all 66 barangays of the agricultural-industrial town of Tayabas, Quezon.

For 25 years, the co-op maintained and operated a credit-cum-savings program financing micro and small businesses. Tayabas MPC's propensity was challenged when poor collection and repayment of loans, poor organizational structure and lack of sound policies started to crop up. Luckily, the coop was given a second wind when it underwent reorganization in 1990. The new set of officers pursued reforms anchored on aggressive deposit generation, capital build-up and loan collection; and a host of new products and services such as housing loan assistance.

Today, TCMC has 2,131 members who are composed mainly of farmers, with P32.5 million share capital. Its total assets were registered at P72 million and its deposit level at an average of P16,700 per member. It is bigger than most banks in Tayabas in terms of assets, loan portfolio and deposits. Its loan portfolio for 2001 reached P51 million posting a 22 percent increase from the previous year's.

TCMC's building in Tayabas currently stands as the tallest in the area. This houses the coop's administrative office, mini-supermarket, furniture and appliance store. Beside is the hardware store which rakes in sales of P1 million monthly.

Indeed, TCMC has succeeded in providing a better way of life for the people of Tayabas through the aspiration and perseverance of its officers and members.

LANDAN PEOPLE'S MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE
Polomolok, Cotabato

On June 22, 1994, a group of B'laans established the Landan PMPC to refute the misconception that tribe people are not capable of bringing community development on their own. Eight years after, they succeeded in proving false notions wrong and gradually brought confidence to the tribe people of Landan.

Today, they are no longer ashamed to be called B'laans. They are able to restore the confidence and high regard for their heritage and traditions. They have rightfully proven that they can rise above their limitations and can integrate themselves into the mainstream. The B'laans of Landan, Polomolok, Cotabato are now proud achievers on account of the success of their cooperative.

The following are some of the achievements of the B'laans of Landan:

•The tie up with DOLE on pineapple production helps in the generation of jobs for people in the area.

• They maintain the traditional and environment-friendly way of pineapple plantation thru intercropping and employing one ratoon to be able to have quality produce.

• The coop supports the Landan's Kababayan Center which protects the tribe people against rebels in Cotabato.

• They are engaged in reforestation projects to protect the environment.

•The co-op donated a one-hectare lot for an elementary school in Landan for their backyard planting classes.

• More than 50% of their 150 ARB members, are now proud owners of the land they till under the CARP.

Indeed, the Landan People's Multi-Purpose Cooperative carries the legacy of a proud tribe, the B'laans of Cotabato. The B'laans have reclaimed their rightful place in society, where merits are given not only on the basis of their indigenous beginning, but also for their initiative to lead, introduce progress and rise above many challenges.

STS. PETER & PAUL MPCI
Hinunangan, Southern Leyte

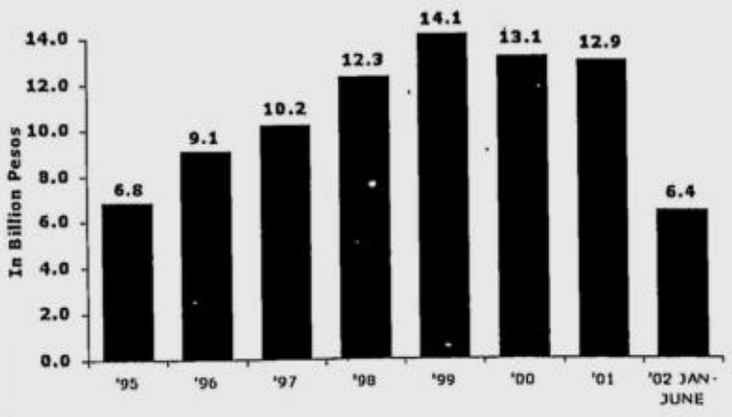
Back in 1968, Fr. Frederick Wakeham, a Canadian parish priest of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hinunangan, Southern Leyte, established a credit union to help coconut farmers in the area. Several farmers showed interest in joining the union but due to financial constraints, the farmers could only spare ten coconuts as their initial share.

After 32 years, the coop has shown significant growth in terms of lending activities for agricultural production, animal husbandry, industrial production and transportation. The coop operates the biggest multi-pass rice mill in the entire Hinunangan which provides the rice requirement of the entire municipality. It also maintains a general merchandising business, lodging house and provides printing and reproduction services.

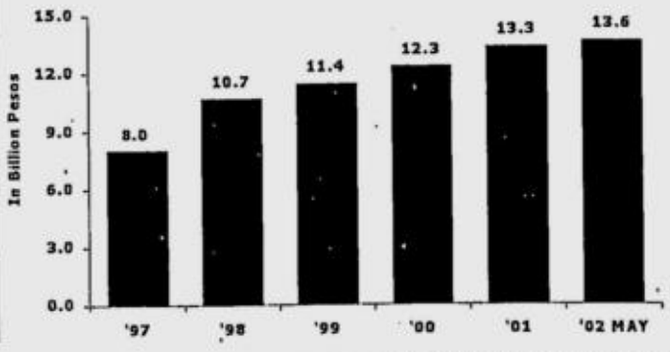
As of end-December 2001, Sts. Peter and Paul MPC has an authorized capital of P134.5 M, subscribed capital of P33,538 and a paid-up capital of P18.4 M. Its total membership reached 1,433 comprising mainly of farmers and fishermen.

The co-op shares its success to the members by providing emergency, providential and appliance loans, low-cost housing units for its members and scholarship grants for qualified children of coop members. They also actively participate in community development activities such as education and health programs.

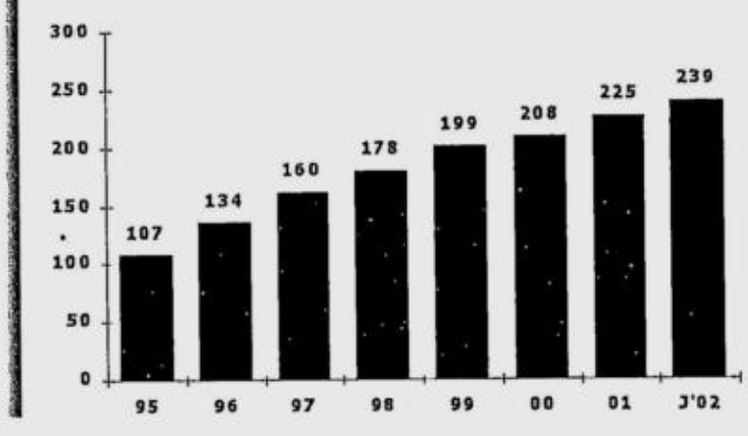
LBP Loan Releases to Small Farmers and Fisherfolk Cooperatives (In P Billions)



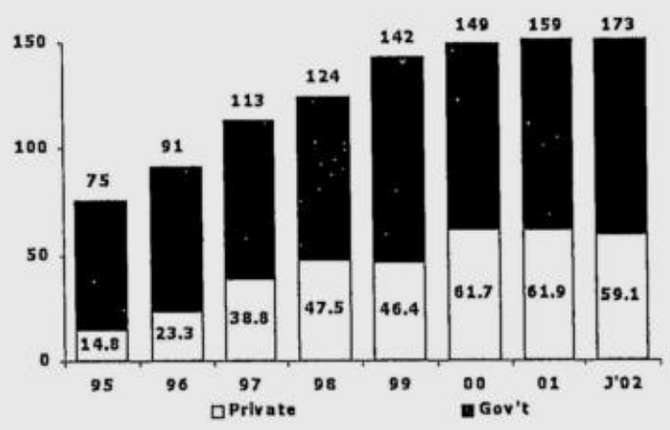
LBP Outstanding Loans to Microenterprises and SMEs (In P Billions)



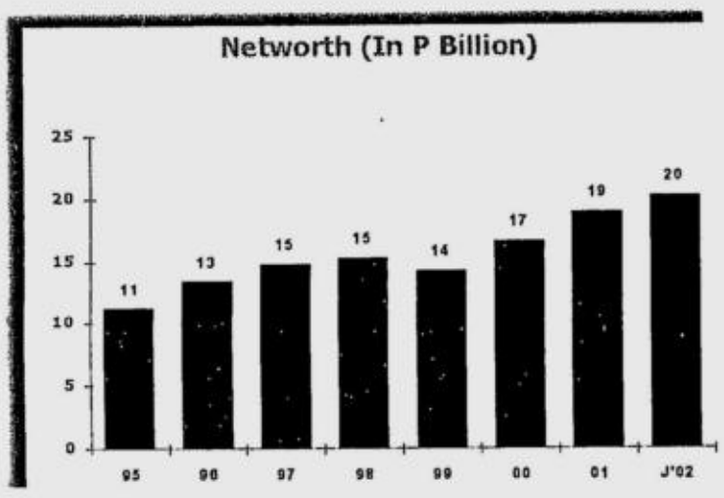
Resources (In P Billion)



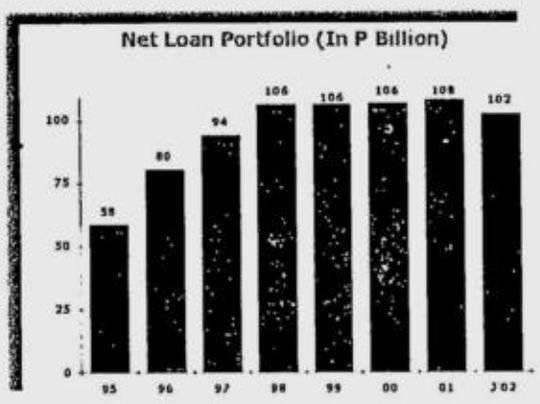
Deposits (In P Billion)



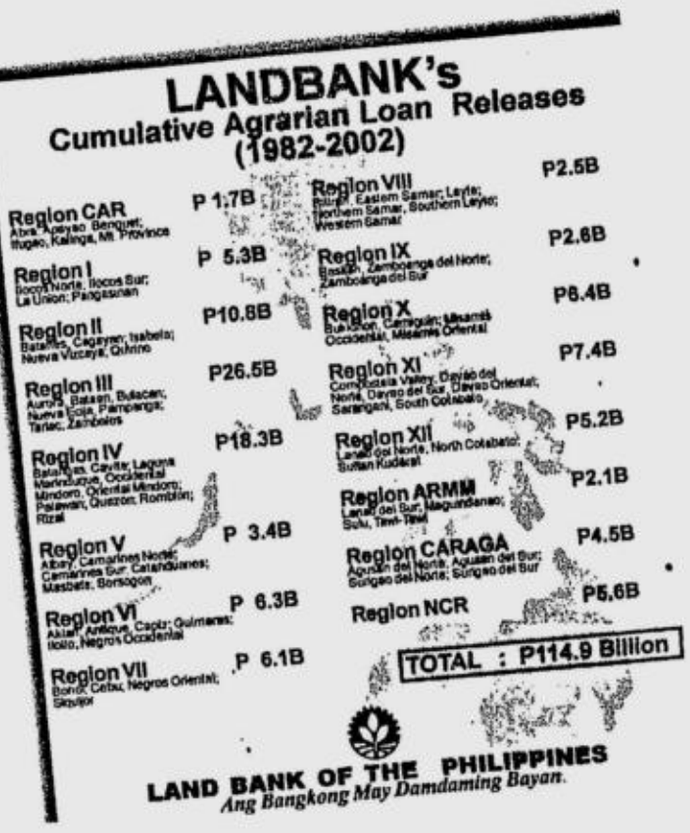
Networth (In P Billion)



Net Loan Portfolio (In P Billion)



LANDBANK's Cumulative Agrarian Loan Releases (1982-2002)



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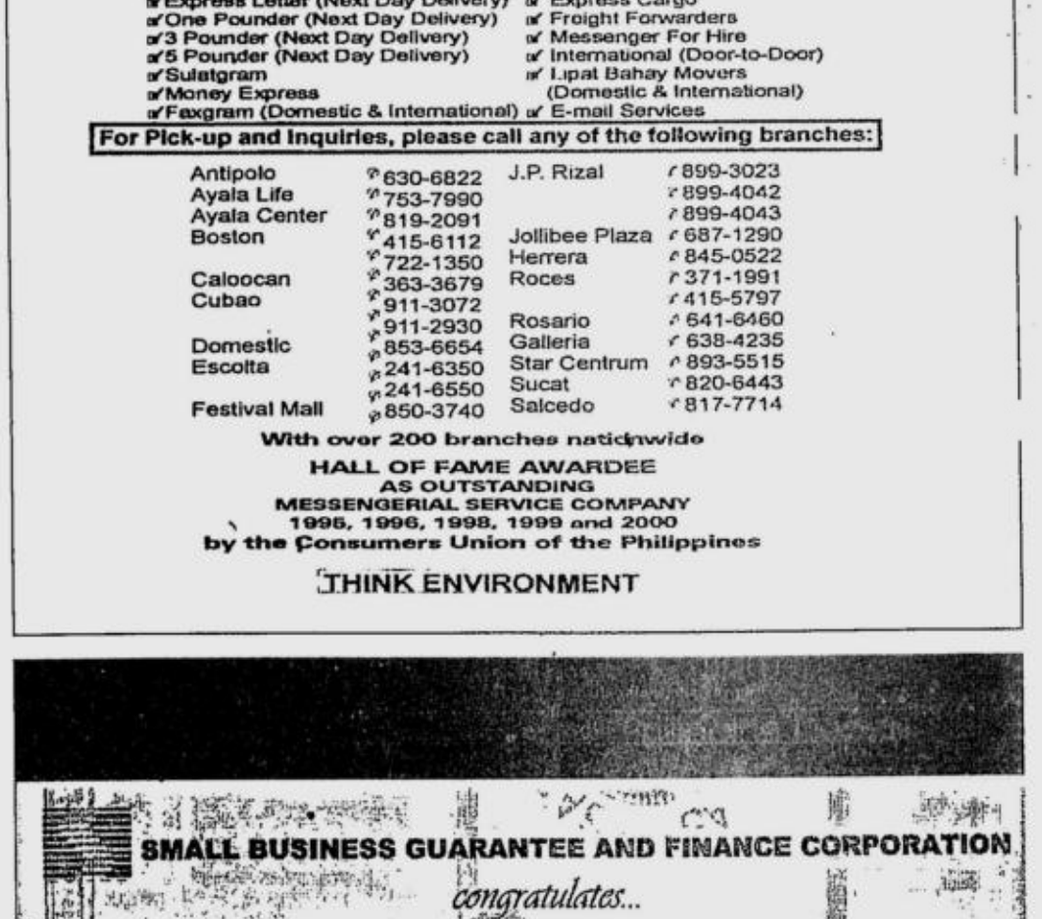

SMALL BUSINESS GUARANTEE AND FINANCE CORPORATION
congratulates...

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
on the occasion of its 39th year of service to countryside development

Interview with Landbank president and CEO Gary B. Teves

What is LANDBANK's status with regards to the banking industry, particularly in the midst of the country's continuing economic woes?

As of June 18, 2002, we are:

o 3rd in terms of deposits with P174.5 B
o 4th in terms of capital with P20.8 B
o 5th in terms of assets with P238.7 B. Among the top banks, LANDBANK has the 2nd highest asset growth rate or 10.5% next to RCBC
o 5th in terms of loan portfolio with P103 B

We have the largest credit assistance to:

o Small farmers and fisherfolk with P11.2 B
o Micro, small and medium enterprises with P13.5 B
o LGUs with P14.4 B loans outstanding (as of March 2002).

LANDBANK is present in all 79 provinces with 340 branches (including Lending Centers as of end-December 2001).

What are the Bank's primary objectives? How do you ensure that these are being met?

• LANDBANK's primary objective is to spur countryside development by providing financial and technical assistance to small farmers and fisherfolk, and micro, small and medium enterprises.

• These are being met thru the following strategies:

- Transform our loan portfolio which is 38% in 2001 to 65% by end-2004 – in favor of small farmers and fisherfolk, SMEs, microfinance, agri-infrastructure, agri-related projects and agri-business. We also reduced processing time of production loans from 75 to 45 working days and increased the levels of authority of our key field officers so that loan proposals from our provincial clients no longer need approval from the head office.

- Increase from 1.5 million to 2 million the number of LANDBANK-assisted small farmers and fisherfolk by 2004.

- Continually develop and upgrade human resources; develop advanced technology and efficient systems; and continuously improve customer service.

Who are the Bank's biggest clients today? How is the Bank addressing the needs of its clients?

Our biggest clients are the small farmers and fisherfolk although we also prioritize small, medium and micro enterprises, local government units and countryside financial institutions.

We lend to small farmers and fisherfolk thru cooperatives. Our Development Assistance Department handles the co-ops' institution- and capability-building components. This is to make sure that they have the necessary lending capability and absorptive capacity for the loans they avail from us. They should also have the necessary preparation like simple bookkeeping, auditing, marketing, and monitoring of activities.

During your two years of tenure, what are your most successful projects and why? Which have given you the most satisfaction?

• My first year was geared toward restoring financial health of the Bank. The Bank had experienced a downtrend in its profitability, but we managed to reverse that trend during our first year. From only P509 million net profit before I took over, we were able to achieve a total of P1.5 billion.

• Transformation of our loan portfolio from 38% to 40% in favor of agri-agra loans as of May 2002. Our goal is to bring it up to 45% this year, to 55% in 2003, and hopefully to 65% by end-2004. In terms of absolute amount, we will try to hit P47 billion this year until we reach P70 billion in current prices by end-2004.

What are your upcoming projects and programs?

• We have to work hard in handling our non-performing loans (NPLs) and Real and Other Properties Owned or Acquired (ROPOA) which are still higher than the average.

• I'd also like to do more in the area of human resource development, in terms of training and higher education so we're doing crossposting and career pathing.

• We'd also like to put in more resources in technology. At present, we are enhancing the Bank's IT infrastructure and programs to make the Bank more competitive.

What are the problems being faced by the Bank today, and how are you addressing these problems?

• One is the non-performing loans or ROPOA which represent a little over 17% of the Bank's total assets. If we can bring it down to industry average, then the cash we can generate can be translated into more lending to our priority sectors.

• Another is LANDBANK's absorption of P750 million worth of expenses related to our comprehensive agrarian reform operations. In the past, this was handled by the government but they have asked us to absorb it. To accommodate this, we have to look for alternative sources of income or bring down our expenses to a more manageable level.

• Also, we have to improve the competitiveness of our staff and employees. We need to invest more on training and technology. We also need to become competitive in the area of customer relations.

What do you think is LANDBANK's most significant contribution since its inception 39 years ago?

• We have been a factor in the agrarian reform program although we only serve as the government's conduit in paying the landowners.

• A lot of our resources are also spent in extending credit and technical assistance to the small farmers and fisherfolk thru cooperatives. We also work through our development partners like the rural finance institutions and the local government units. So we have a substantial contribution in terms of developing the countryside and helping the agricultural sector.

• In terms of our SONA commitments, LANDBANK's contribution to the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Program reached P13.9 B last year, which is about half of the AFMA requirement. That exceeded our commitment of P10.1 billion.

• In terms of microfinance, we have our supervised corporation, the People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC). This year, they've exceeded the target of over 300,000 microfinance borrowers which was the SONA commitment of the President.

• Finally, while many banks lend to the industrial, commercial and property sector, not too many banks are lending exclusively to small farmers and fisherfolk which we are doing. Our vision is to allocate more resources for the agricultural sector from a level of 38% to 65% by end-2004.

How do you see LANDBANK in the future? What can we expect, especially from those in the farm-based sector? Do you see it becoming even bigger than it is now?

• If we are able to implement our goals and vision, then LANDBANK will be identified as THE agricultural bank helping the farmers. That to me is very, very important and we should remain focused on that.

• Of course, to ensure that we have the resources to continually help our farmers, we first have to be competitive and profitable. This means we have to look for other income-generating activities to assist our primary clients.

Regarding your sudden arrest, did this affect you in any way?

• No, not really. The only thing that bothered me at that time was the quickness of the arrest. It appeared that I didn't have time to explain our side. So I checked with our lawyers and I called up Secretary Braganza to check if he was aware that I was going to be arrested by his Provincial Adjudicator. He said that he wasn't aware (chuckles) and he said that he was going to do something about it. I didn't want to be perceived that I was above the law so I decided to go with the arresting officers.

How did you feel then?

• I was more relieved because I thought that it's about time that we faced the issue squarely. What has been happening was the landowners were trying to go with a higher valuation of the property so the program was going to be very expensive for the farmers. I asked myself: Is it prudent? Is it justifiable to have a riceland valued at P1.4 million per hectare? I couldn't handle that.

• And besides there was already a formula that would bring about what was an appropriate amount for the landowner. Of course the landowner will normally argue that "This is not justifiable, this is too low." But it is part of the law. I've always said to myself that a law can be changed if it's poorly prepared or the circumstances are already different from the time when the law was enacted, but you cannot disregard the law while it is still in effect. You apply it when the law is modified.

What is your next step? Did you file countercharges?

• No, so far we haven't. We just have to wait for developments. The Department of Agrarian Reform thru the DAR Adjudication Board or DARAB is supposed to make the final decision on Provincial Adjudicator Baguilat – whether he acted accordingly in issuing the arrest order. We told them it was not proper. But then they haven't made the final decision yet so technically I'm still on bail. But if they could already make a judgment on that case, then it will be fine.

Sir, you were adjudged as a hero in the arrest. Please comment on that.

• I'm surprised by that statement. That was far from my mind. I was focused on the fact that what was then considered as fair by the landowners and the adjudicator was rather unfair to the farmers. That's why I had to act on that. My conscience dictated that that was the right thing to do and it was not only the right thing, it was also legal because there was a formula associated to the decision. And I thought that when you combine legal and moral, then you're doing it correctly.

What is the ideal land reform scenario? Do you think this would really help alleviate the poverty situation and ensure food security in the country?

• The ideal land reform scenario is one that will improve the quality of life of the farm beneficiaries. The national government should put more resources under the agrarian reform program for support services thru agencies like DA and LANDBANK while DAR handles the distribution part.

• Also, I think it is better to merge DAR and DA to make sure that land distribution and the corresponding support services are synchronized. And then LANDBANK will provide the credit assistance. I think we'll have better results that way.

You turned 59 last August 1. What's your birthday wish?

• (laughs) Pretty old, no? On a personal note, my wish is to continue to have good health for myself and my family. To continue working hard and still be productive in the remaining years of my career.

• For the Bank, I am hoping that we can continue doing what we need to do, maintain our financial performance and at the same time, realize our vision of helping the farmers by allocating more resources for them.

• Of course, I also want our institution to be more caring in our relationship with clients. We are in the service industry so we have to be customer-friendly.

• I'd also like to see more resources allocated to training and technology. I want to strengthen the Bank to make it really, really competitive.

How long do you plan to stay in government service and what legacy would you like to leave in LANDBANK?

• I don't know how long I'm going to stay because my service in LANDBANK is really at the pleasure of the President. If she thinks I'm doing well, she might allow me to continue. But if she thinks that there are people who can do better, then that's really her prerogative. But as long as I'm here, I'd like to work on the program and vision that we discussed.

• I'd like to leave a legacy of hard work, teamwork, concern and dedication. These are nothing new. Of course, I'd really like to achieve our vision of helping the countryside, our farmers. We're still very far from that. We're only about 40% of the 65% I mentioned earlier.

• Reality and perception should be one – that the Bank is not just a commercial bank but it is also assisting farmers and fisherfolk and really helping spur development in the countryside. That is what I thought might be my legacy if I can stay here and work with the LANDBANK Board and all the Landbankers who have been very supportive.

BITS & Clips

Affordable lots from Cathay Land

CATHAY Land Inc. has recently entered the pre-selling stage for its latest residential project El Montebello. El Montebello consists mostly of residential lots, but there is also an allotment for commercial spaces. Located in Barangay Maguyam in Silang, Cavite, El Montebello offers the amenities of higher end residential subdivisions at surprisingly low prices. Furthermore, Cathay Land has announced bigger discounts for their first 100 buyers. Aside from getting a lower per square meter price, the first 100 buyers will be offered discounts on total contract prices, not just for spot cash buyers, but for buyers who wish to avail themselves of financing as well. For more information, get in touch with Max or Alvin at the Cathay Land office at 636-0111 to 14, or 635-8108.

Gifts Fair 2002

ON AUG. 9 and 10, all roads lead to Le Pavilion Edsa, corner Roxas Boulevard Metropolitan Park, Manila, for the staging of Gifts Fair 2002, the trade and consumer expo on gifts, toys, stationery and houseware. Gifts Fair 2002 presents an interesting collection of gift and promotional ideas, toys, houseware products, and more. Daily seminars and product demonstrations will also be conducted during the affair. For more details on Gifts Fair 2002, call Wavelength Design and Exhibits, event organizer, at 533-9129 or 0917-8197434/0919-6880917.

'Kanser' opens GTF season

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation begins its 25th anniversary theater season with the restaging of the longest running production in its repertoire—Dr. Jose Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere" adapted for stage as "Kanser" by Jomar Fleras. "Kanser" will have performances on Aug. 9, 10 and 11 at Camp Aguinaldo, AFP Theater, Aug. 16, 17 and 18 at the St. Cecilia's Hall of St. Scholastica's College in Malate, and a final moveover at the RFC Theater/Cinema along Zapote-Alabang Road on Aug. 23, 24 and 25. All performances are at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. With Gantimpala founder Tony Espejo as artistic director, multi-awarded actress Mia Gutierrez directs. For tickets and information, call the GTF office at 895-8314, or Alice Borbe at 0918-9212866, the GTF marketing office at 899-5745 or 896-3505. E-mail gantimpala@pacific.net.ph or log on to www.geocities.com/gantimpala25.

LGC INDUCTED TO PSQ

The Lina Group of Companies, comprising of logistic services (including Airfreight 2100, the licensee of Fedex in the Philippines), waste management, property management, insurance brokers and aviation transport management companies, was recently inducted as corporate member of PSQ (Philippine Society for Quality). This involvement is the objective evidence of the commitment of Alberto D. Lina to performance excellence. Six companies within the Lina Group have already been certified to the international standard for quality management system ISO 9000. Shown, from left are Jun Gonzales, LGC corporate senior manager, Fred David, LGC corporate support group director, Maritess Bagaman, PSQ VP-external, Cynthia Cabasag, PSQ president, Zeny Veloso, PSQ trustee, Marlon Alagao, and Rod Nebiar, LGC corporate QMS auditors.

PAGCOR DONATES AMBULANCE

Pagcor chair and CEO Efraim C. Genuino recently donated a Toyota Lite Ace van for use as an ambulance to the Senor Sto. Nino White Foundation in a ceremony held July 11 at the Pagcor House along Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Shown representing Genuino is Pagcor president and COO Rafael 'Butch' Francisco (third from right) turning over the vehicle to Sto. Nino founder Soledad Herrera (second from left). Flanking them are (from left) Sto. Nino White Foundation president Pete Domingo, spiritual adviser Fr. Rey Amante, and Pagcor's transport services head Sergio Navoa. The vehicle will be used for Sto. Nino White Foundation's healing crusade. About 60 patients a day troop to the foundation's clinic in Carville, Tanza, Navotas, to seek treatment for various ailments.

SMART PARTNERS WITH NET 25

Leading wireless services provider Smart Communications Inc. has partnered with IT channel Net 25 to provide its viewers with an interactive text messaging service that allows them to vote on an issue, express a view, or just greet their friends in selected Net 25 shows using their Smart or Talk 'N Text GSM cell phones. The service, Text 2525, is initially available in Net 25 programs 'Con Todos Rekados', 'MTV Play', 'Liwanagin Natin' and 'Convergence'. Aside from allowing televiewers to post messages, they can also join in on promos aired over the channel by sending their messages via the Smart access code 2525. The service was launched at the New Era University in a three-day event coinciding with the school's 27th Foundation Day. Shown is Dr. Corazon Osorio, NEU president (third from left), cutting the ceremonial ribbon of the telecommunications exhibit marking the Text 2525 launch. Assisting her are Anastacio Martirez (second from left), Smart head for personal communications and mobile services division, Art de Guzman (far left), Net 25 general manager, and Ito Ramirez (far right), PLDT SVP for marketing services.

Edsa Properties takes over P2-B Shang Tower project

UPSCALE real estate developer Edsa Properties Holdings Inc. will take over the development of the stalled P2-billion Shang Tower condominium project in Makati from affiliate Kuok Philippine Properties Inc.

In separate disclosures to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, EPHI and KPPI announced that they were in negotiations for EPHI to bankroll the development of the high-end residential tower project in exchange for KPPI's interest in the joint venture deal.

The Shang Tower is a joint venture between KPPI subsidiary KPPI Realty Corp. (KRC), SGV Provident Fund and Centrum 1 Condominium Corp.

"KRC shall assign its rights and other interests in the project pursuant to its agreements with SGVPF and Centrum," the disclosures said.

Lot owners SGVPF and the Centrum group have committed to put in their adjacent lots along Dela Rosa Street in Makati covering a combined area of 2,800 square meters as equity to the project.

The respective boards of directors of KPPI and EPHI have passed resolutions concerning the Shang Tower project, which was expected to be completed in three to four years. ***Doris C. Dumlao***

RESTRUCTURING PROGRAM OK'D

NSC creditors agree to give veto power to Malaysian debt agency

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CREDITOR-BANKS of National Steel Corp. have agreed to give Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd. veto power on key board decisions in exchange for the Malaysian government's support for the steel giant's debt restructuring program.

After a meeting with creditor banks Monday night, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said: "We seem to have bridged a few of the items discussed and we are hopeful that the banks would not insist on having full say on all matters."

Roxas said he would ask for a face-to-face meeting with Danaharta in Kuala Lumpur to convey the results of the negotiations with Philippine creditor banks.

Danaharta had previously stated it would support the creditor banks' proposal to convert the bulk of their P16 billion loans to an 80 percent equity in NSC and a write-off of some P6 billion or nearly 40 percent of NSC's obligations on condition that it be given a say on key board decisions such as asset sales.

The debt restructuring would pare down Danaharta's stake from 82 percent to 15 percent. The combined debt-conversion and write-down would also reduce NSC's debt load to P2 billion and make it more attractive to prospective investors.

Danaharta's request for veto power was the last hurdle to the conclusion of the discussions between creditor banks and Danaharta.

NSC was forced to shut down its plant in 1999 because of mounting debt service payments and losses arising from stiff competition from cheap steel imports from Russia. Danaharta is Malaysia's debt rehabilitation agency that took over Renong Berhad's assets a few years ago.

Renong owns the majority stake in NSC through Wing Tiek Holdings.

NSC's creditor banks include Philippine National Bank, Allied Banking Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines, United Overseas Bank Philippines, Global Banking Corp., Bank of Commerce, China Banking Corp., Equitable-PCIBank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Traders Royal Bank, United Coconut Planters Bank, and Urban Bank.

Foreign group to acquire stake in troubled Asian Diamond

By Elena R. Torrijos

A SINGAPOREAN-AMERICAN group is poised to invest at least P63.5 million in Asian Diamond Plans Inc. by Aug. 15.

Emil Aquino, SEC non-traditional securities and instruments department director, told reporters yesterday that the foreign group would raise Asian Diamond Plan's paid up capital to P100 million from P50 million and set aside P13.5 million to fully cover for the pre-need firm's trust fund deficiency.

Aquino said the Singaporean-American group wanted to bring up the paid-up capital base of Asian Diamond so that the company could once again offer three types of pre-need plans—pension, education and memorial plans.

Under the new rules of the SEC, pre-need companies with a minimum paid-up capital of P50 million but less than P75 million may sell only one plan, two plans if the company has a minimum P75 million but less than P100 million and three plans if the paid-up capital is at least P100 million.

Asian Diamond Plans of Damaso Magbual is the only other pre-need company, aside from the College Assurance Plan Philippines, which still has a trust fund deficiency.

The Singaporean-American group will be buying out Magbual from Asian Diamond Plans.

Aquino said that there were two other unidentified groups represented by law firms that have expressed interest in acquiring a pre-need plan company.

The SEC earlier required pre-need firms to raise their paid-up capital base to at least P100 million in a bid to weed out fly-by-night operators and consolidate the industry. The paid-up capital requirement led to merger and acquisition talks in the pre-need industry.

Eternal Plans of the Cabangon-Chua family, for instance, has reportedly started discussions to acquire Pension and Retirement Plans. Legacy Plans, meanwhile, has acquired Consolidated Plans and All Asia Plans.

There are currently 45 licensed pre-need plan companies in the country of which 23 have a minimum paid-up capital of P100 million, although only 19 offer three types of pre-need plans.

Since the first pre-need product entered the Philippine market some 36 years ago, the pre-need industry has grown into a billion-peso business generating more than P38 billion worth of plans sold in 2001 alone.

ALI puts up new unit to tap AB market

By Doris C. Dumlao

LEADING property developer Ayala Land Inc. has projected a 50-percent increase in sales of high-end projects this year following the creation of a dedicated marketing subsidiary.

The new wholly owned subsidiary called ALI Property Specialists was put up to exclusively sell ALI properties and identify untapped markets in the AB income segment.

ALI PS president Marivic Añonuevo told reporters during the launch yesterday that the new subsidiary was expected to account for 25-30 percent of ALI's total sales output this year.

She said the creation of ALI PS would boost overall sales since ALI would no longer rely on independent brokers to close property deals, instead banking on its 60 marketing staff to tap buyers for its projects.

Añonuevo said the company had assembled a team composed of graduates from top schools and the top sales performers in the real estate industry to push sales.

ALI PS would continue to target Ayala's traditional AB market but would now be more active in approaching the prospective buyers and enticing them to invest in Ayala properties.

"This is done through high-impact selling methods while remaining faithful to the image of elegance and security which have been the distinguishing characteristics of every Ayala project," ALI PS said in a statement.

This was a different approach compared to the boom years of the real estate industry in the mid-1990s when buyers would line up to buy Ayala properties.

The new unit is currently focusing on residential projects developed by ALI such as One Roxas Triangle and One Legazpi Park in Makati, Ayala Westgrove Heights in Cavite, Ayala Greefield Estates in Calamba as well as Montgomery and Ferndale Homes in Quezon City.

Out of the P1 billion in property sales closed during the first four months of ALI PS' operation, 85 percent came from first time buyers of ALI projects while the remaining 15 percent are old customers.

"The figures are very clear. The aggressive and pro-active sales method being employed by ALI PS is successfully expanding the market of Ayala. The real estate market today is characterized by stiffer competition and more discriminating buyers," Añonuevo said.

"ALI PS is seizing the opportunity in this viciously competitive climate by finding a way to connect to consumers who did not have a channel to the Ayala group in the past," she added.

ONE ROXAS TRIANGLE

ALI PS is set to put up an Ayala South Office next month to cover the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Quezon) area south of Metro Manila to be followed soon by satellite offices in other growth areas.

"In the not so distant future, ALI PS will have international hubs that specifically target foreign investors. We believe in making Ayala properties more conveniently available to markets that believe quality, comfort and value-for-money are beyond compromise," she said.

RP set to import cattle from Vanuatu

THE PHILIPPINES has turned to Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu for its cattle requirements due to rising cattle prices in Australia.

The agriculture department's Bureau of Animal Industry said cattle from these countries cost about P15,000 to P20,000 per head, which is 20 percent less than Australian cattle.

Local cattle raisers are hard pressed to look for cheaper sources of cattle after the mad cow scare pushed prices of cattle worldwide, thus, causing a surge in operating costs.

The DA said cattle imports have been reduced to 100,000 heads from 250,000 heads due to difficulty of sourcing cattle that is free of the mad cow disease, causing prices of local beef products to double over the past two years.

Abila said business could pick up once the cattle imports come in from Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.

In a related development, the livestock industry in Luzon may get rid of the foot and mouth disease by 2004.

Luzon is the only region that remained prone to FMD. The World Organization for Animal Health has already declared Mindanao, Visayas and Palawan as FMD-free for the past two years.

Globe's first-half net beats estimates

From page B14

Revenues reached P22.4 billion from P15.44 billion in the same period of 2001.

Globe said it brought in around 440,000 new wireless subscribers in the second quarter, bringing the total to 5.4 million at the end of June and giving it a market share of around 42 percent.

"We are looking for a P6.1-billion net income for the full-year, so these results are slightly ahead of our expectations," ING Barings telecoms analyst Doris Pardo said.

Globe's closest rivals, the cellular units of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp., had a combined market share of around 57 percent at the end of June, but analysts said the two posted sizeable falls in growth rates for new subscribers in the second quarter.

"In the face of the market continuing to ease off, they did better than Smart," Barclays Capital regional telecoms analyst Lloyd Ong said of Globe, referring to cell phone demand.

The Philippines has seen one of the most explosive growth rates in cell phone usage, with more than 12 million subscribers at the end of June, up from around one million at the end of 1997.

But with around 14 percent of the population now toting mobile phones, analysts believe the market is heading for saturation, with monthly subscriber additions slowing down markedly this year.

To keep producing robust earnings, Globe would need to grow its average monthly revenue per user, cut costs, trim capital spending and launch new value-added products, analysts say.

Globe said it saw capital expenditure of around P34 billion this year, most of it aimed at building up wireless infrastructure.

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MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Coco fuel advocates seeking protection via bio-fuel board

By Tessa R. Salazar

CONCERNED citizens who desperately wanted clean air for their children and grandchildren got a glimmer of hope when they heard alternative fuels were already being tested on modified vehicles.

Mounting pressures from environment groups made government agencies look for ways to make alternative fuel commercially viable.

Added pressure came from political instability in the oil-producing countries, primarily in the Middle East, where 70 percent of all the world's oil is sourced.

Engine convertion

New hope now comes from newly tapped onshore resources for natural gas in Echague, Isabela, and the P1.3-million grant from the Department of Science and Technology for the State College of Isabela to convert three diesel engines to natural gas engines.

The realization of the hope comes in the form of two seven-seater Enviro 2000 vans of the Department of Energy and the Philippine National Oil Co. powered by natural gas. These vans were imported from Malaysia, and are now undergoing test runs in Fort Bonifacio. Other projects involving coconut methyl ester (CME) and alco diesel are also in the pipeline, and are creating interest and nurturing optimism among concerned sectors.

Supporting the call of President Macapagal-Arroyo, certain sectors have started to produce CME to supply the biodiesel program once it is fully implemented.

Available for commercial use

Soon, CME as a bio-fuel will be available for commercial use. It has been proven as a direct substitute for diesel fuel, an engine conditioner and as a petroleum diesel fuel enhancer. Compared to methyl ester bio-fuels from other vegetable oils, experts say that CME does not require retrofitting or replacements in some parts of the diesel engine. Soybean, rapeseed and palm oil methyl esters require replacements of rubberized fuel lines to epoxidize, thus preventing dissolution. Proponents of CME said there is a need to maintain quality and assure the motoring public that the bio-fuel they use will be best for their engines.

Emil V. Carandang, executive director of the Philippine Coconut Research and Development Foundation and research and development committee chair, United Coconut Association of the Philippines (Ucap), said that to safeguard the interest of the coconut industry and assure the sustainability of the program, there is a need to have a coordinating body like a Philippine Bio-fuel Board to provide assistance to the President in studying issues that confront the bio-fuel industry and suggest solutions at economic, political, legal, institutional and technical levels.

Carandang said this body should be composed of members of various sectors knowledgeable in bio-fuels.

"We don't want a similar 'Nata de coco' situation to happen with the CME or bio-fuel industry," he said.

Carandang said the interest in biodiesel in the Philippines should be credited to President Macapagal. One of her top priorities has been to help the ailing coconut industry and implement the Philippine Clean Air Act, he added.

Biodiesel is a fuel produced from renewable resources such as vegetable oils like the coconut oil. It can be used pure, 100 percent, or blended with petroleum diesel fuel. In Europe, rapeseed oil is used for the production of biodiesel, soybean oil in the United States, and palm oil in Malaysia.

CME is nontoxic, biodegradable and safe. Aside from its negligible sulfur content, it burns more cleanly and completely, thus not contributing to pollution and global warming.

Oils and Fats International, in its July 2002 issue, claimed that the US Senate on April 25 passed an Energy Bill that included provisions to boost biodiesel consumption through excise tax incentives, blender tax credit, removal of a 50-percent biodiesel limit in the Energy Plan Act 1992, and the use of biodiesel in federal government vehicles.

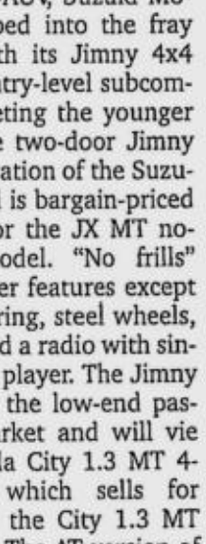
The use of coconut oil for biodiesel production was highly welcomed by the coconut industry. Its use as fuel was attempted previously when prices of copra were low. Carandang said converting some of the coconut oil to CME would surely increase domestic consumption and thus prevent the glut of coconut oil supply in the world market. With this, he said the Philippines could get better prices for its copra.

Subsidies to farmers

"We all know that despite the WTO provisions, the United States and Europe still continue to provide subsidies to their farmers," Carandang said. He added that this was one aspect that was not being done in the Philippines.

With the opening of the world market, Carandang warns that vegetable oils from other countries will invade the local market. These imported oils, in turn, will become cheaper for the biodiesel production than the local produce. This would again cause a major blow to the ailing coconut industry.

Car wars update



ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

AT PRESENT, car manufacturers doing business in the Philippines are green except for Honda. Green not as in environmental awareness but green as in envy. Honda Cars Philippines Inc. has turned its competitors green with envy because of the phenomenal success of the second generation CR-V, which is selling so briskly that buyers have to wait three months for delivery.

Thinking out of the box, Honda chopped the price of the new CR-V some P200,000 lower than that of its major competitor in the compact SUV market, the Toyota RAV-4. By increasing the CR-V's seating capacity from a comfortable five to a crowded 10, Honda freed the CR-V from the excise tax and was thus able to reduce the CR-V's SRP (suggested retail price) to almost-but-not-quite AUV levels.

Honda figured correctly that buyers wouldn't mind if the new CR-V no longer had 4-wheel-drive capability, after all most compact SUV owners are not off-road enthusiasts. More importantly, by removing the previous CR-V's Real Time 4WD, Honda got the new CR-V exempted from the onerous tax on 4WD vehicles.

Competitive edge

Although it is priced a bit higher than top-end AUVs, the CR-V has a competitive edge because of its i-VTEC engine, full range of safety features (dual airbags, 4-wheel disc brakes with ABS and electronic brake distribution), double wishbone rear suspension and SUV heritage.

Undoubtedly, the CR-V (P899,000 manual transmission and P959,000 automatic transmission) has grabbed market share from de luxe, fully loaded AUVs like the snazzy, diesel-fed Isuzu Crosswind XUV (P819,000 MT and P859,000 AT) which, with its high ground clearance and rear door-mounted spare tire, looks more like an SUV than an AUV.

Isuzu Philippines Corp. fought back by recently launching the Crosswind XUVi, which has two 5.6-inch LCD monitors at the back of the front seat headrests and a videoke with two wireless microphones aside from the other accessories of the standard Crosswind XUV. The XUVi comes with AT only and has a price tag of P919,000. While the CR-V has VTEC technology, safety features and a carlike ride, the XUV's robust, 2.5-liter direct-injection automatic turbocharged Isuzu diesel engine, size and height—it's the biggest, widest and tallest AUV in the market—are its major selling points. Isuzu claims that there is a two-month backlog of purchase orders for both the XUV and the XUVi.

Backfired

In a way, the success of the CR-V has backfired on Honda in that it is outselling the Civic, the top-end model of which, the 1.6-liter VTi-S AT is retailed at P825,000 or only P74,000 less than the CR-V MT. But the CR-V may also be cutting into the market of the P923,000 Toyota Corolla Altis 1.8G AT. Here's why: for only P36,000 more, you can buy a 2.0-liter CR-V AT or for P24,000 less, you can have a CR-V MT instead of a 1.8-liter Altis. This is sweet revenge for Honda, whose pole position in the passenger car market with the Civic was recaptured by Toyota with the Corolla Altis last year.

Noting Honda's success in the ongoing car wars with the discount-priced Philippine edition CR-V SUV-cum-AUV, Suzuki Motor Corp. jumped into the fray last month with its Jimny 4x4 cute ute. An entry-level subcompact SUV targeting the younger generation, the two-door Jimny is the latest iteration of the Suzuki Samurai and is bargain-priced at P540,000 for the JX MT no-frills basic model. "No frills" means no power features except for power steering, steel wheels, a vinyl floor and a radio with single in-dash CD player. The Jimny JX MT tackles the low-end passenger car market and will vie with the Honda City 1.3 MT 4-door sedan, which sells for P550,000 and the City 1.3 MT GI's P510,000. The AT version of the Jimny JX sells for P598,000.

Selling points

Teenagers or doting parents who can afford to pay a bit more will look at the P640,000 Jimny JLX AT, which has power windows, power side view mirrors, central door locking, aluminum alloy wheels, floor carpeting, an electric clock, body-colored bumpers and side moldings, a roof rack and the standard radio with single in-dash CD player.

On paper (I haven't test-driven it yet), the selling points of the Suzuki Jimny are its bargain price, part-time 4WD, all-aluminum twin cam 16-valve engine, 8-inch ground clearance and full ladder frame. The rigid axle front and rear suspension system, however, may provide a harsh, bouncy ride and the small, 80-hp 1.3-liter powerplant may turn off speed freaks. On the other hand, for a subcompact four-seater like the Jimny, 1.3 liters should be adequate. And remember, Suzuki Motor is world-famous for its small but superlative fun machines.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: At least it's paid for.

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)

Raider: More than just your regular bike

By Tessa R. Salazar

PICTURE your regular office guy or gal whom you later find out during the company anniversary or Christmas party had extraordinary talent and wit. On an ordinary day they'd be far from looking drop-dead gorgeous, but once you get to know them better, you realize they're perfect companions.

This is how Suzuki Shogun motorcycle's new sister Raider is being marketed. Raider may not look your drop-dead gorgeous 1000-cc dream super bike that you would brag about to your colleagues in the motorcycle circuits, but Suzuki motorbike executives could very well tell you eye to eye it could be your everyday power bike with sparks of big bike features fused in. And that may be more than enough.

Raider, so to speak, came out to the open on July 19 at the Carmona Racing Circuit sporting a 125-cc engine (predecessor Shogun was 110 cc) and with features normally seen only in big bikes ("cc" by the way, means cubic centimeters—the engine displacement, or the amount of air and fuel mixture that enters the combustion chamber. In Raider's case, 125 cc of air and fuel mix can be pumped in or out. The larger the displacement, the stronger the "kick").

Raider's engine could very well be the counterpart of a 16-valve engine of a car. The only difference is that as a motorcycle it has a single cylinder with four valves. Motorcycle racing engines have the type of designs such as the Raider's single cylinder with four valves, which is more reliable during high speeds and provides higher RPMs (revolutions per minute).

Raider also boasts of a double overhead camshaft (also known as DOHC), a so-called BS-type carburetor that boosts fuel economy and a twin swirl combustion chamber that Suzuki's resident technology guy and service and warranty manager Magnus R. Mateo says would provide higher-fuel-burning efficiency for a wide RPM range. Air and fuel swirl inside the chamber, giving better fuel-burning efficiency. This also means minimizing unburned

RAIDER/ p. B9

RPN AUTO EXTREME AUTO BYTES

Catch AUTO EXTREME every Saturday, 4 PM on RPN 9 and log on to www.autoextreme.tv

Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in the Motoring section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

What is HEI? —*Everette Jay Arreola of Bulacan*

THE LETTERS HEI stand for High Energy Ignition, and as the name implies, it produces a considerably greater amount of spark energy.

To understand its benefits better, you'll have to understand the basic purpose of the ignition system. And that is to create a voltage high enough to arc across the gap of a spark plug. This will create a spark strong enough to trigger combustion of the air/fuel mixture otherwise called "ignition."

The conventional ignition system creates just enough voltage to jump a .035-inch spark plug gap. But in a High Energy Ignition system (HEI), where terminal posts are spaced farther apart, you get enough voltage to jump a .045-inch spark plug gap. So what does a difference of .01 of an inch do for you? It gives your distributor the capacity to handle the higher voltage levels generated.

Your stock ignition coil supplies only about 20,000 volts of power to the distributor. The coil used in high energy ignition systems puts out over 30,000 volts of usable spark energy to your spark plugs!

Higher voltage means a hotter spark. And that hotter spark will burn your fuel more efficiently thus increasing gas mileage. It also burns more thoroughly, reducing emissions and pollution.

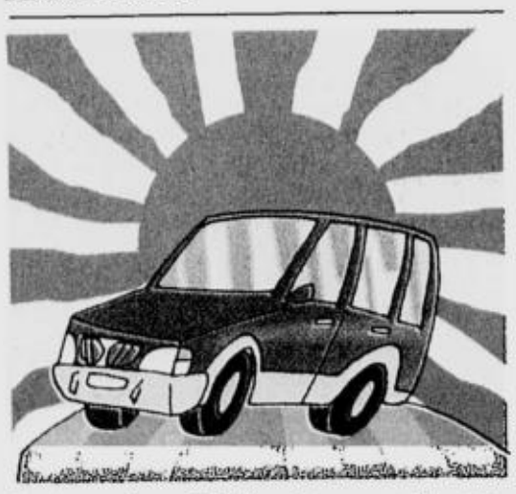
A hotter spark also means a more responsive engine even in cold weather or with "cold starts."

It also improves idle and high speed performance. By reducing the chances of cross-firing with spaced out terminal posts, an HEI produces a much smoother idle. And, by triggering larger combustion in your piston chambers, it also increases your horsepower and torque.

Mitsubishi's newest bold move; Hari's design

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza



FIRST, the Philippines and Indonesia. Next, Vietnam. And then the entire Southeast Asian (SEA) region.

This is the vision of Mitsubishi Motors of Japan for the next two to three years.

The Philippines and Indonesia have already been conquered. Mitsubishi's AUVs are doing extremely well in both countries; its Adventure is the Philippines' second best-selling AUV.

Our Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. said in a report that Mitsubishi Motors of Japan is set to make the Philippines its base to build and sell AUVs to other Southeast Asian countries. Aside from the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam, the other SEA nations are Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar (Burma).

* * *

According to Gil, Melchor "Mel" R. Dizon, senior vice president of the Mitsubishi Motors of the Philippines, said Mitsubishi's top officials in Japan are "extremely keen" on using the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) to expand sales of the AUV models in the region. Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is the other name for SEA.

The Philippines will be Mitsubishi's Asean hub for its AUVs.

Gil quoted Mel as saying Mitsubishi believed there was "an appetite for affordable and flexible-use vehicles" in Asean countries other than the Philippines and Indonesia. The AUVs are the answer.

* * *

Initially, Dizon said Mitsubishi's capacity is reflected in its plant's production of pickup trucks and sedans to 62,500 annually. Roughly, it produces 2,000 units a month—one-third of that dedicated to the domestic market.

About 600 to 700 of those are Adventure models.

Under the Afta policy, Mitsubishi can avail of reduced tariffs when it starts shipping out AUV models to our Asean neighbors—a sure boon not only to the giant vehicle manufacturer but also to its fellow players in the region mulling over similar prospects in the future.

* * *

The three-year warranty from Hari (Hyundai Asia Resources Inc.) for would-be buyers of Starex is a big blow to the dealers engaged in the "gray market" business for the nation's best-selling van.

Also, to further put the "gray market" players to the brink of collapse, Hari got the nod from the Hyundai bosses from Korea to press down their prices if only to ensure that Starex lovers are to be sold brand-new, if not tampered, Starex vans.

It is of common knowledge that buyers from the "gray market," not to mention the "black market," are in grave risk of buying secondhand, if not defective, Starex vans.

By directly purchasing your Starex vans from Hari and its dealers, you are assured of a genuine deal, complete with the perks. You will also be helping the government in its honest drive to collect taxes properly as transactions with either the "gray market" or "black market" can be sneaky.

So, if you love your country as much as you love owning a Starex, go to Hari. Reponsible citizenship starts with buying things the right way.

* * *

Calling on my *kabaleyan* Bert Capili, the big boss at Inteco Dagupan. Please speed up the release of the Crosswind intended for Dr. Mario de Guzman?

You see, the good doctor has sold his car as he is itching to drive home his brand-new Crosswind XUVi.

I have always known Isuzu to be an efficient and customer-friendly company.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Step on your brakes softly when the road is wet. The ABS (anti-lock braking system) is defenseless against a slippery road.

Is Michael Schumacher the greatest driver ever?

By Charles E. Buban

FERRARI team's Michael Schumacher has spent the past couple of seasons rewriting the Formula One racing history books, and people now can't help but ask: Is he the greatest driver ever? Schumacher is universally regarded as the most talented driver of his generation. This year the German has equaled the previously unbeatable record of Juan Manuel Fangio (five driver's titles) and surpassed Nigel Mansell's previous best for the fastest championship win.

One more victory this year will also see him surpass his own and Mansell's record for most wins in a season, reaching the magic 10 for the first time. Schumacher has come perilously close to achieving this feat in four occasions—in 1994 and 1995 with Benetton, and in 2000 and 2001 with Ferrari.

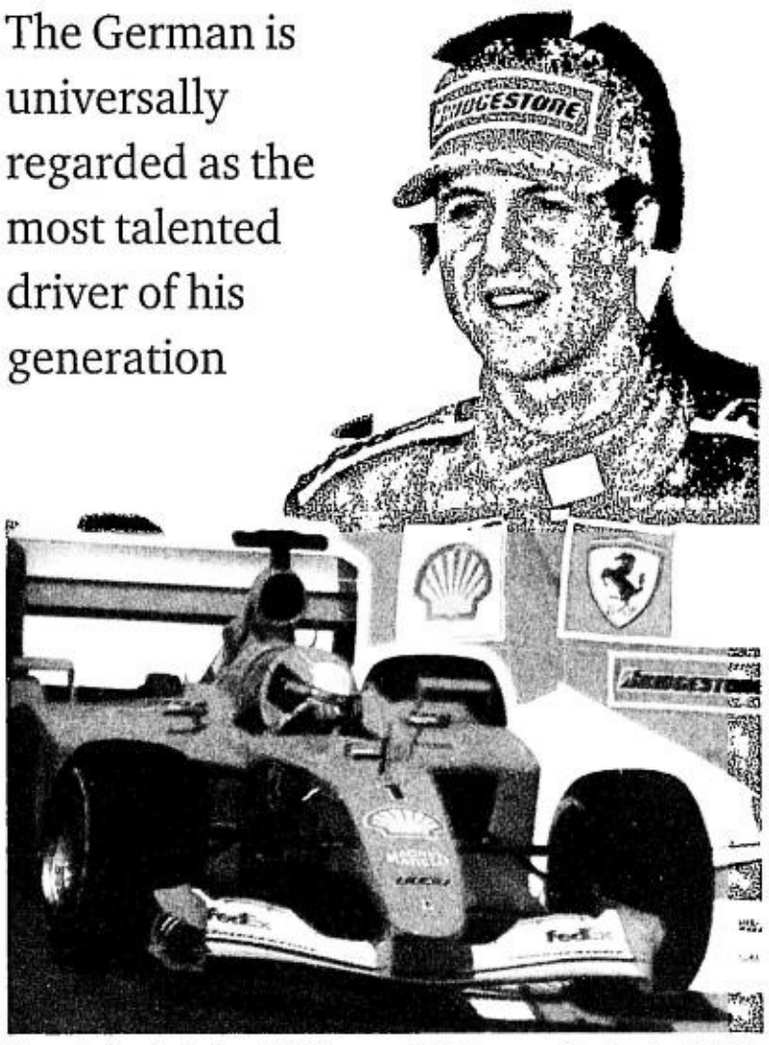
With five more races still remaining in 2002, he could also help Ferrari match another team record—most wins in a season—that is currently held by McLaren, with 15 wins that the team posted in 1988. Last season, Schumacher's victory at the Belgian Grand Prix also saw him surpass Alain Prost's record of 51 race wins and at the final round in Japan he also moved ahead of Prost to become the greatest-ever points scorer in F1 racing.

With his prospect stronger than ever, it wouldn't be surprising if Schumacher sets his sights on the next season where he could set a historic sixth world title.

No smooth road

With all the wins and achievements, Schumacher's road to fame is also decked with failures and frustrations. The years 1998 and 1999 proved to be frustrating seasons for Schumacher. In 1998 he battled against Mika Hakkinen for the drivers' title right up to the last race in Japan only to be stalled on the starting grid. As a result, he had to begin the race from the very back, in accordance with Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile regulations (F1 regulating body). Despite his placement, he put on a stunning performance working his way up to third place until a shard of debris punctured his tire eventually ending his title hopes.

The German is universally regarded as the most talented driver of his generation



The next year, an accident at the British GP left him with a broken leg, unable to compete in a race. The German returned from his recuperation period in Malaysia and put in a strong campaign winning the San Marino and Monaco Grands Prix but once again the title slipped from his hand at the last race in Japan. He finished fifth in the drivers' championship with 44 points.

Hoping to leave all his frustrations behind, Schumacher started 2000 on the right track—winning the first three races of the season. A mid-season slump almost threatened the German's campaign but thanks to an emotional win in Italy that was followed by two straight victories in the United States and Japan, Schumacher was again a world champion.

The following year was another dominant season for Schumacher, as he once again took the drivers' title for Ferrari. The German won the first two races of the season and continued this winning streak at seven other Grands Prix. Schumacher had broke just about every record and wrapped up both drivers' and constructors' championships with still four races to go in the 2001 season.

Powerful tandem

Schumacher joined Ferrari in 1996 after a five-year stint under the Benetton banner. He quickly made his mark by finishing third overall that season despite having problems with the car. The following year he almost won second place but was stripped of the honor after an incident with another rider in the last race of the season.

With Schumacher's talent and Ferrari's expertise on the racetrack, the tandem poses a difficult challenge for both West McLaren Mercedes and BMW Williams, Ferrari's closest rival.

The way Schumacher and Ferrari are doing right now, the tandem is more than likely clinch the constructors' championship at round 13 in Hungary (this Aug. 18), the same venue where Schumacher wrapped up the 2001 drivers' crown.

Raider: More than...

From p. B8

gases. Almost all the air and fuel in the chamber is burned, converted to more power.

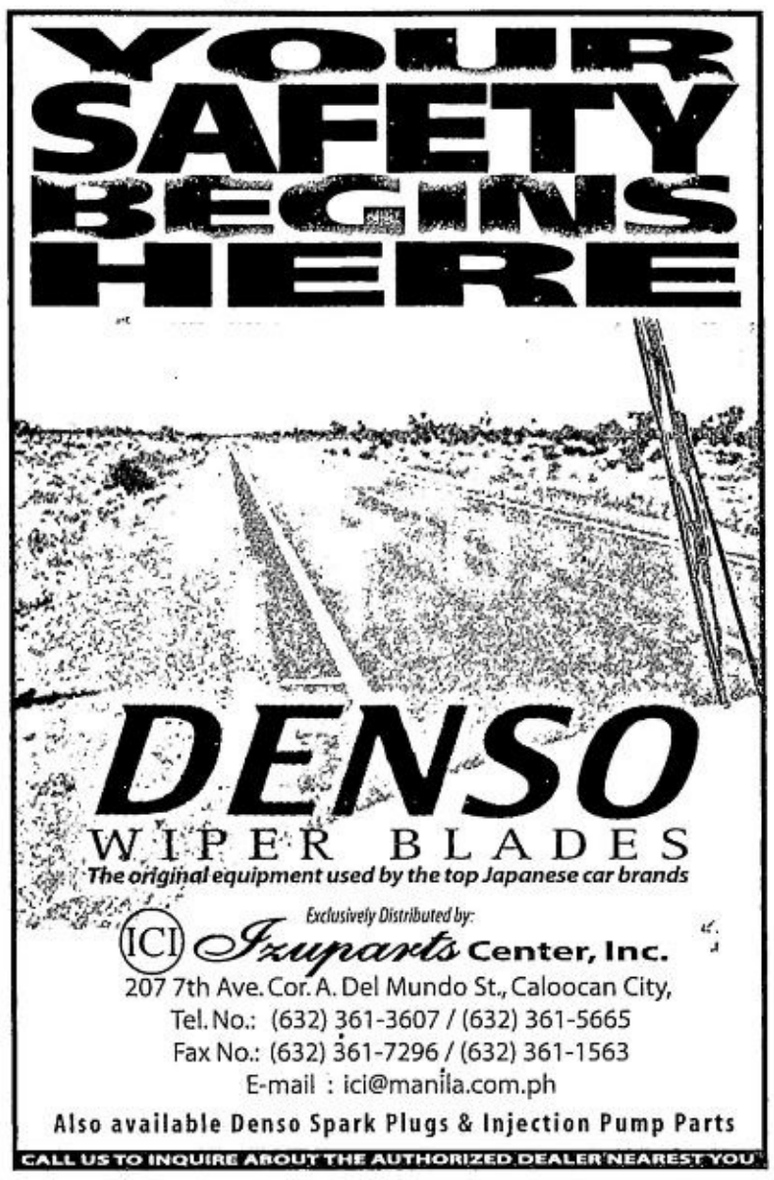
Raider comes in manual transmission, 5-speed.

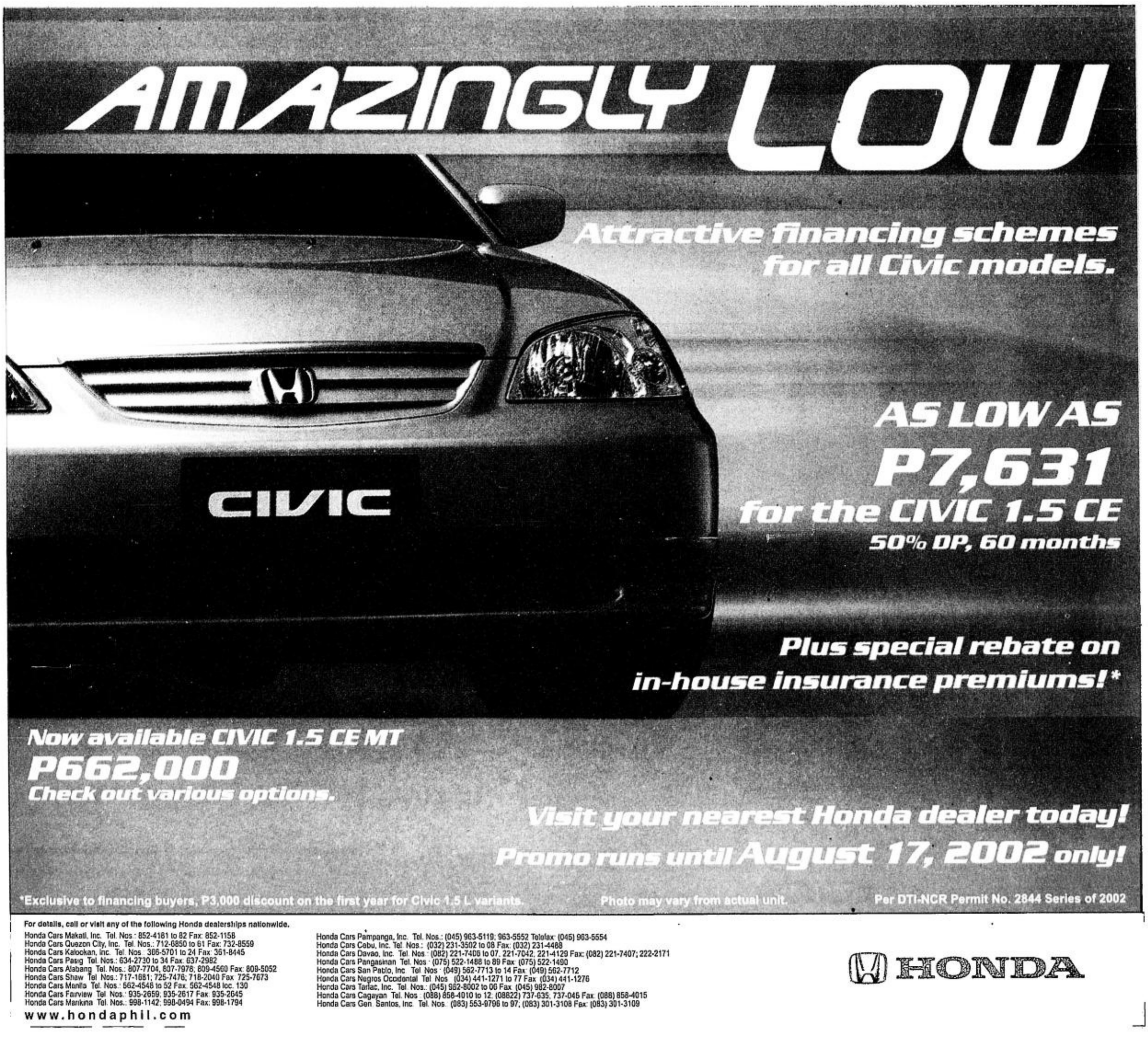
Noticeable is its sporty muffler that resembles a racing bike's exhaust. The silver muffler exhaust pipe is angled at 45 degrees. This incline is ideal for bikes during high speeds, as the exhaust would provide more back pressure.

Suzuki, which boasts of pioneering an advanced engine cooling system, even has an oil cooling system to cool the engine and lubricate it.

Benedict Martin T. Arreola, manager for Suzuki marketing, said that Suzuki categorized its market as high, medium and low. When Suzuki introduced the 110-cc Shogun last year, it targeted the middle market. Raider's coming-out party is a signal that Suzuki is aiming higher. The 125-cc Raider is attractive to high-end markets since its value-per-feature character is desired by the market, he said.

"If you are a power user, 125 cc is already commendable for your everyday use. Teenagers, yuppies and those who like to modify their motorcycles are our target markets." Those who modify their motorcycles and buy stock are recommended to try the Raider for guaranteed minimal modifications.





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Notice is given that the estate of the late Wilfredo E. Dumlao was extrajudicially settled by his heirs before Notary Public J. Reine Rhea L. Bunoan of Quezon City under Doc. No. 793, Page No. 159, Book No. X, Series of 2002. *(PDI-Aug. 8, 15 & 22, 2002)*

NOTICE OF LOSS

LOST BROWN NATIVE DOG male big built with blue collar Last seen Aug.4 near Luz Facial Visayas Ave. Vasra Village, Q.C. Call 4536765 or (0917)9638392 or (0917)4112934 BIG REWARD NO QUESTIONS ASKED

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH
Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.
This prayer was found in the fifteenth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.
Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB-7), Banilad, Mandaue City, invites qualified bidders/ suppliers to participate in the bidding of the following items not later than 2:00 p.m. on **August 22, 2002**.

QTY	UNIT	EQUIPMENT/TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION
		A. Package Continuous Air Quality Monitors with Telemetry System
1	PC	1. Instrument Shelter Aluminum Box Chasis (20 x 30 x 23 m) Roof Guard Rail Ladder
2	PCS	2. Aluminum Racks (40 RU)
1	PC	3. Gas Sampling Manifold
1	PC	4. Dust Sampling Manifold
1	PC	5. Internal Power Generator (75 KVA)
1	SET	System must be capable of measuring air pollutants and meteorological conditions:
		6. Sulphur Dioxide (SO_x) analyzer
		7. Ozone (O_3) Analyzer
		8. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_x) Analyzer
		9. Benzene (C6H6)
		10. Toluene (C6H5 CH3)
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		17. Calibration Gas in 10-liter Aluminum Cylinder with gas regulator
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1	UNIT	20. Four (4) wheel drive Double Cab Pick-up
		System must measure continuously measure directly pollutants concentration in weight per unit volume in real time basis consistent with existing set of regulations, standards and guidelines. System must be flexible and can be used as fence line monitor at street level. The data gathered must be processed by analyzers and data handling and automatically generate reports. System must be capable of remote telemetry reporting. The monitors must have a method for calibrating the system through the use of U.S. EPA protocol gases.
		The particulate monitor must be filter-based direct mass monitoring that can be able to monitor PM-10 and TSP by changing the inlet must contain no radioactive materials, with active volumetric flow control system to maintain a constant volumetric flow at the flow rate specified.
		All monitoring instruments must be a designated equivalent method according to the federal register of the U.S. EPA.
		The data handling must be able to receive data from the analyzers and store the data on a database for printing in tabular or graphic display later. The software should also have a real time calculations and presentation data statistical analysis and remote data presentation.
		All monitoring equipment and accessories must be housed in air-conditioned towable caravan with 4x4 vehicle. The vehicle must be manual transmission diesoline, four (4) wheel drive and parts should be available in the Philippines. The engine capacity shall be suitable for moving the towable van, preferably ISUZU FUEGO.
	B.	*C. Office/Field Equipment*
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2	PCS	4. High Volume sampler PM-10
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Bid forms together with complete specifications may be obtained from Administration Division.

Interested bidders are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms. Photocopies of Business License, Certification Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (original copies to be shown for authentication purposes). Bidders bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of Managers/Cashiers check, GSIS or in cash. Performance bond equivalent to 10% of the total bid price is also required for the winning bidders.

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does a guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **BIENVENIDO L. LIPAYON**
Regional Director

(PDI - July 30, 31 & Aug. 8, 2002)

National Power Corporation
G E N C O 2

INVITATION TO BID

For the Sale of Residual Fuel / Sludge Oils
Located at NPC-BFORF Compound, inside the CALTEX Refinery Complex
Municipality of SAN PASCUAL, Province of BATANGAS

"CASH, AS IS - WHERE IS, TAKE ALL and CLEAN-UP"

Date of Bidding : **August 20, 2002**
Time : **10:00 AM**
Place of Bidding : **Conference Room, NPC-GENCO II, Plaza Natalia Building, Nagulilan Road, Baguio City**

Item/Description	Minimum Bid Price
Residual Fuel, one (1) lot, Bunker Fuel Oil, contained inside the BFORF's three (3) fuel oil tanks. Approximately 3,627,856 liters, more or less and **Sludge / Waste Oils**, one (1) lot, inside 76 drums and including all sludge oils contents and waste oils accumulated inside the Oil-Water Separators, Oil-Recovery Tanks, Booster Pumps / Motor areas. And all other waste oils to be taken in the required clean up. Approximately 360,990 liters, more or less. Price included above.	PhP 16,800,000.00

Issuance of Bid Forms including Bid Terms and Conditions at PhP200.00 per set will be on August 9, 2002 at NPC-GENCO II, c/o Mr. O.C. VERANO with Telephone Nos.: 445-4541 to 44 local 217 / 239. Deadline for the issuance of Bid Forms is 4:30 PM on **August 19, 2002**.

Interested parties are requested to attend the pre-bid conference on **August 19, 2002** at 3:00 PM at Conference Room, NPC-GENCO II, Plaza Natalia Building, Baguio City. All inquiries regarding the above should be coursed in writing to Mr. O.C. VERANO with office address at NPC-GENCO II, WTTDC, Plaza Natalia Building, #51 Nagulilan Road, Baguio City.

Sealed Bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 10:00 AM on **August 20, 2002** at the Conference Room, NPC-GENCO II, Plaza Natalia Building, Nagulilan Road, Baguio City and shall then and there be opened for the sale of the items bidden.

If, for whatsoever reason/s, the public bidding is declared a failed bidding the re-bidding will be automatically scheduled on **August 27, 2002** the same time and venue.

Please note that the GENCO II / National Power Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality found therein and to accept or reject such bids as may be advantageous to the interests of the Corporation.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. A.A. PADAEN**
Manager, HR & Administration Services Division
and Chairman, RAMSUC

(PDI – Aug. 8 & 9, 2002)

ERRATUM

In the ad of the Supreme Court Re: Invitation to Prequalify and Bid published in this paper July 23, 2002, the submission of sealed bids date should be **August 28, 2002** instead of August 23, 2002 as printed.

Our Apologies.

REMEDIOS ROCO Vda de ATAYDE

"MEDY"

Peacefully joined our Lord
on August 7, 2002

Husband : **Leandro S. Atayde, Sr.** (†)

Children : **Ramon & Pilar**
Ditoy & Cora
Eddie & Amy
Caloy & Carmita
Ditos & Fernando (†)
Henry & Lizzie

Grandchildren : **Irene & Alfie** (†), **Ramoncito, Arthur, Jimmy, Michael, Danny, Pompom, Bimbim & Mike, Dondon Booboo, Peaches, Rizza, Bunny, Critine, Jovy Mikel, Marimil, Martin & Joaquin**

Brothers and Sisters : **Dory** (†)
Petusa (†)
Fining
Joseling
Techi (†)
Menchu

Her body lies in state at Capilla de San Francisco, San Antonio Church, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be on August 11, 2002 at 1:00 PM.

"Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

Hon. NAPOLEON R. BERATIO, SR.

Congressman 3rd district of Cavite
FEU Law Class 76

Born in Magallanes Cavite on August 15, 1935
Peacefully joined his Creator on August 6, 2002

He is survived by his wife **REMEDIOS**; children **EILEEN & JUN, ALEX & NILDA, CORA & MANNY, NAPO & ROSEL, CATHERINE, VAL & JINKY** and **HENRY, KATHY, VINCE** and **KAREN**.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Magallanes Municipal Hall, Magallanes Cavite.

Interment will be announced later.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

Atty. Adolfo Jesus A. Diaz

Formerly Solicitor of Department of Justice and Department of Tourism

His wife **Dr. Margarita Estonllo-Diaz**; and son **Venancio** request readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on August 10, 2002 after the 9:00 AM Mass.

In LOVING MEMORY
on the 22nd Death Anniversary of
Mayor Domingo B. Flores
Macabebe, Pampanga
September 15, 1917- August 8, 1980

Masses will be offered Thursday, Aug. 8, 2002 at

Presentation of the Lord Parish ..... 6:15 a.m.
Batasan, Macabebe, Pampanga

San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish ..... 6:00 a.m.
Macabebe, Pampanga

San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish ..... 6:00 a.m.
Neptune St., Congressional Subd., Q.C.

St. Joseph the Worker Parish ..... 6:00 p.m.
Balintawak, Quezon City

St. Francis and Sta. Quiteria Parish ..... 6:00 a.m.
Sta. Quiteria, Baesa, Caloocan City

In Loving Memory
of the Second Death Anniversary of

DR. JOSE L. LUDOVICE

Founder and Medical Director
Ludovice General Hospital, Inc.
Vice-Mayor, Daraga, Albay 1992-95
President, Albay Medical Society, 1983-85
President, Rotary Club of Legazpi, 1983-84

November 14, 1930 - August 08, 2000

His loving wife **DR. LAURENTINA REAL-LUDOVICE**; sons **JOSELITO** (82nd Airborne Division, USA), **JOSEFIEL, JONATHAN**, and daughter **JOANE**, request relatives, colleagues and friends to include their beloved "**DOCTOR PEPING**" in their prayers.

Holy Masses will be offered today, August 8, 2002 at:

Our Lady of the Gate Parish, Daraga, Albay ..... 6:30 AM
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Philamlife Village ..... 6:00 AM & 7:30 PM
Las Piñas City
Holy Child Parish, Jimalalud, Negros Oriental ..... 6:00 AM
Dumaguete Maritime College Foundation, Inc. ..... 8:00 AM
Immaculate Conception Chapel, Bakyas, Bacolod City ..... 6:30 AM

CLASSIFIEDS

INQUIRER RiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Hot lips

Q. How do carnival fire-eaters survive all those flames without burning their mouths?

A. The secret lies in saliva, which helps the mouth withstand high temperatures without burning. At the same time, closing the lips tightly and holding the breath extinguishes any flames by cutting off the supply of oxygen. When a fire-eater blows fire, he is actually igniting special fluids saturated on cotton wadding hidden in the mouth. That's why he is careful not to inhale through the mouth before performing the stunt.

A Friendly Reminder. To burst or not to burst a blister? Do not burst a blister deliberately unless the taut skin is causing acute discomfort. Opening the skin increases the risk of infection. If you decide to do so, doctors advise that you observe these scrupulous conditions of cleanliness: (1) Wash the blistered area, and your hands thoroughly; (2) Pass a fine needle through a flame and let it cool for a moment. Do not wipe off any soot and do not touch the point; (3) Hold the needle flat on your skin and press the point gently but firmly into the blister, just enough to burst it; (4) Remove the needle and make a second puncture on the opposite side of the blister; (5) Remove the needle and press gently on the blister with a clean piece of cotton wool; (6) Wipe, and apply an adhesive. If a blister bursts by itself, expose it to the air as much as possible in hygienic conditions, but keep it covered with a bandage if there is a risk of dirt getting in.

Name Game. Aladdin ('servant of God'); Doreen ('golden girl'); Levi ('united'); Rhoda ('garland of roses'); Neal ('champion'); Winona ('first-born daughter'); Jonas ('dove'); Elvira ('white woman').

WORD WATCH

Acupuncture (ak yoo pungk chur) : from the Latin *acus* ('needle') + *pungere* ('to pierce').

PDI -- August 8, 2002

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax. 631-84-92
Direct Line: 633-72-03
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 locals 2105
2006

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL

The Department of Education (DepEd) is in need of a lot to be used as a school site for the relocation of the Balagtas Elementary School in Batangas City. The approved budget for the project is P 13,000,000.00.

The proposed site should meet the following criteria:

1. Area should not be less than 5,000 square meters.
2. With clean Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) and free from liens and encumbrances.
3. Must be located within a radius of not less than 150 meters from cockpits, malls, gambling dens, cinema houses, beer and videoke joints, jails, industrial establishments, military quarters, public markets, slaughterhouses and garbage dumps.
4. Must be easily accessible to the greatest number of pupils within Brgy. Balagtas, Batangas City.
5. The contour of the land should be level and have no irregular boundaries, and will not require voluminous filling.
6. The subsoil should provide a proper base for economical and substantial foundation of the buildings to be constructed.
7. Must have a suitable frontage on a public road or should be nearby and have direct open vehicular access to the public road
8. With regular supply of water and electricity.
9. No history of flooding.

All interested bidders must avail of the bidding documents starting **August 12 to 27, 2002** at BAC Secretariat, Rm. 112, Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg. DepEd Complex, Pasig City.

All proposals must be submitted on **September 10, 2002**, 10:00 AM at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. A pre-bid conference will be held on **August 27, 2002** at the same time and place mentioned above.

The Document reserves the right to reject any or all proposals to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the proposals.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd BAC

(PDI--Aug. 8 & 15, 2002)

SZOPAD SOCIAL FUND
SPECIAL ZONE OF PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
SOCIAL FUND PHILIPPINES

INVITATION FOR BID
SZOPAD SOCIAL FUND

Date : August 08, 2002
Loan No.: 799P
IFB - 02 - 08 - 02

1. The Government of the Philippines through the SZOPAD Social Fund has received a loan from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development toward the cost of SZOPAD Social Fund Project and it intends to apply a portion of this loan to eligible payment for the Off Grid Rural Electrification Project.
2. The SZOPAD Social Fund now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, delivery, installation, test and commissioning of the entire five (5) Packages of Off-Grid Power System, as follows:

Package 1.	Project Code	:	P12-00476
	Project Location	:	Pababag, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
Package 2.	Project Code	:	P11-00854
	Project Location	:	Capual, Luuk, Sulu
Package 3.	Project Code	:	P12-00475
	Project Location	:	Lambug, Parangan, P. Sugala, Tawi-Tawi
Package 4.	Project Code	:	P12-00477
	Project Location	:	Marang Marang, Languyan, Tawi-Tawi
Package 5.	Project Code	:	P11-00855
	Project Location	:	Kabukan, Panglima Tahil, Sulu

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedures specified in the OPEC Fund for the International Development procurement Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from SZOPAD Social Fund and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 2,000 per copy starting **August 12, 2002**. The method of payment will be on cash basis only.
6. Bids must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend at 10:00 A.M. on **September 16, 2002** at the SZOPAD Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and must be accompanied by a minimum bid security of 2% of the total bid amount.
7. Interested bidders are invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference to be held at SZOPAD Social Fund Office on **August 16, 2002** at 1:00 P.M.

Republic of the Philippines
SZOPAD Social Fund
3/F VHW (Land Bank) Bldg.
Veterans Ave., Zamboanga City
Tel. (062) 992-2684-86 / 992-2706
Fax (062) 991-9410
Email: Edlim@mozcom.com

Attn: **MR. EDWARD I. LIM**
Executive Director

(PDI--Aug. 8, 2002)

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.
JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
more than just a memorial park
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, 1632
Tel. Numbers 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112;
845-2341 or 845-2342
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph

OBITUARIES

YORK (U.S.A.) CASKETS
... because they deserve only the best.
*For more information, please call your funeral director.

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.

and the

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

mourn with deep sorrow the passing away
of a distinguished colleague

HONORABLE NAPOLEON R. BERATIO

Congressman, Third District, Cavite
1998-2001, 2001-2002

who joined his Creator on Tuesday, August 6, 2002
at the age of 66.

His body will be brought to the House of Representatives on Thursday, August 8, 2002
at eight o'clock in the morning from Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, New Manila.
Requiem Mass will be held at the Plenary Hall at 10:00 a.m.
followed by a Necrological Services at 11:00 a.m.
Afterwhich, his remains will be brought to lie in state at the
Magallanes Municipal Hall, Magallanes, Cavite.

Interment will be announced later.

We request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

We, the family of the late

THELMO T. ESCALONA

would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to his brothers, sisters, relatives, friends and to all those who, in one way or another have been part of Daddy's life, for sharing in our sorrow.

Thank you so much for the Mass offerings, flower donations, financial contributions and most of all, for your being with us during our time of bereavement.

"Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted."
Matthew 5:4

MILAGROS VILLARAZA TORRES

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 3, 2002
at the age of 72.

Her beloved husband **Dr. Bienvenido L. Torres Sr.**; children and spouses **Melinda & Sam, Robert & Cathy, Bobby Jr. & Marinete, Benjie & Bing, Malou, Darie & Raquel, Bonnin & Glenda, Bobet & Mymy**; grandchildren and relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Mines Hotel, Daet, Camarines Norte.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 10, 2002 at Risen Christ Memorial Park, after the 2:00 PM Mass at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Daet, Camarines Norte.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the bereaved family, **Wilson & Elizabeth, Walter & Tita, Eugene & Zennia, Johnson & Elreen, Gabriel & Lynette, Lillian & Benito Que, Evelyn & Jefferson Sy** and long time companion, **Irma**
of the late

DR. AMADO T. LEE VILLANUEVA

who joined his Creator on
July 29, 2002. .

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all who paid their last respect and grieved with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, messages of sympathy, kept vigil, were present at the necrological services, Novena Masses, funeral rites and who in various ways gave us comfort at the time of our great loss and sorrow.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIDGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2126, (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu; Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City, Tels 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City; Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605, (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125, 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila; Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
FUNFRARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011; Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite, Tels (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila, Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42, (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City, Tels. 825-1295, 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Tel. 722-2730, Cell (0917) 5680135, (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City, Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795, 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kalayaan St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337, (074) 442-3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417, (046) 571-1978
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City, Tels 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676 Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels 645-1855, 682-0209, 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City; Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529, 522-8783, (0919) 348-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867, 714-0868
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila, Tel Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.,
Mandalagan, Bacolod City, Tel 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City, Tels 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels 826-1376, 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City, Tel Nos 843-8838/39, Fax No 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City, Tels 852-8228, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila, Tels 749-3679, 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Tels 372-5084, 410-9286 87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1801, 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tels 522-8846, 522-9438, 400-5394

"Whoever believes in Me will LIVE, even though he dies."

-JN 11:25

University of Perpetual Help System

LAGUNA, Laguna-GMA, **RIZAL**-Las Piñas,
Rizal-Calamba, Rizal-Molino, **MANILA**, **PANGASINAN** and
FOUNDATION FOR MEDICINE & ALLIED HEALTH
UPHR - JONELTA FOUNDATION SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY SAVINGS & LOAN BANK

Manila, Las Piñas, Molino, Biñan

University of Perpetual Help Medical Center

Manila, Las Piñas, Biñan

extend their deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of

DR. JOSE G. TAMAYO

GRAND PATRIARCH AND FOUNDER
University of Perpetual Help System

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on August 6, 2002 at the age of 81.

leaving behind his beloved **son TONY and DAISY MORAN** and grandchildren Anthony and Richard**; daughter TESSIE and NESTOR SALAZAR** and grandchildren Mike (wife Dang and greatgrandchild Angela), Kit, Ria, Steve; **son NITO and KAREN BERTHOLF** and grandchildren Nicky, Kenny**; son ARCADIO and NYMPHA PUNLA** and grand children Arni, Arnyl, AJ, Al J, Anny; **son BERT and EDNA SOSA** and grandchildren Winnie, Odon, Rona, Nina, Ana; **son BING and CORA ONGPAUCO** and grandchildren Mervin (wife Alice and greatgrandchildren Josh and Mariana), Jay (wife Aui and greatgrandchild Daniela); **son PAENG and BABY GOMEZ** and grandchildren JR, JP; **daughter PINKY**; **daughter WINKY and ROLLY TAMPOYA** and grandchild RJ; **son MAURO and JESSICA PASCUAL** and grandchildren Maica, Jomas; **daughter YAYANG**, and **son BUTCH and MARLA ABAD** and grandchildren Joey, JV, Joelle.

AND brothers and sisters **GERARDO** *(deceased)*, **RIZALINO** *(deceased)*, **BIENVENIDA**, **EUFROCINA**, **ALFONSO** *(deceased)* with wives/husbands, nephews and nieces

who request the pious readers to pray for his soul.

Dr. Jose G. Tamayo's body lies in state at the University of Perpetual Help System Chapel in Sto. Niño, Biñan, Laguna. Interment will be at 3:00 pm on Sunday, August 11, 2002.

BUSINESS

Funding to extend Edsa MRT closed

THE METRO Rail Transit consortium disclosed yesterday that it had concluded a deal to raise funding for the second phase of the MRT project that would link the Edsa MRT line with the Light Railway Transit system.

In a news statement, the consortium said it successfully securitized receivables from the existing operations of the Edsa MRT line passing over Epifanio de los Santos Ave. from Pasay to Quezon City.

The system currently ferries over 300,000 commuters daily along the country's main thoroughfare.

The event is the first major securitization completed in Philippine capital markets.

It is expected to generate sufficient liquidity to enable the MRT consortium to finance the $214-million, 5.12-kilometer MRT phase 2 expansion project that will connect Edsa Line 3 to LRT Line 1.

This phase extends the Edsa MRT line from North Ave. in Quezon City to Monumento in Caloocan, where it will link up with the Monumento end of the Baclaran-Monumento LRT system.

The MRT consortium said it signed various documents with MRT III Funding Corp. Ltd. and PentaCapital Investment Corp. that would allow the issuance of asset-backed notes with an approximate value of $378 million.

"In simple terms, future income from the MRT 1 can now be used to fund the construction of MRT 2," it said.

The project's completion, it said, would put in place a comprehensive mass rail transit system in the capital region.

The development is "good news to millions of Metro Manila commuters, as it brings us all closer to the completion of a major structure that will revolutionize mass transportation in the metropolis," it added.

Members of the MRT consortium that signed the documents included the Fil-Estate Group, Anglo Philippine Holdings Corp., Railco Investments Inc., Sheridan LRT Holdings and DBH Inc.

The notes are backed by equity rental payments from the Department of Transportation and Communications for the Edsa Line 3 LRT project.

Edeza says quitting gov't in 2003 a 'serious option'

NATIONAL Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday surprised the market with his announcement that quitting his post early next year was a "serious option."

"I would like to keep my options open, but resignation is a serious option," Edeza said.

His plan to quit may happen as early as February 2003, he said.

Appointed as the government's treasurer in February last year, Edeza earlier planned to leave government service as early as July last year. ***Clarissa S. Batino***

Steel companies press ban on scrap metal exports

THE COUNTRY'S steel manufacturers and metal casters are urging trade officials to stop the sale of scrap metal to foreign buyers, citing a similar ban that the government imposed on raw hide exports to support the development of the local footwear and leather goods industry.

In an interview yesterday, Philippine Steelmakers Association president Jeffrey Ng said steel manufacturers and metal casters were in the same boat as shoemakers, and that they also needed firm government support to ensure that they would have a stable and affordable source of raw materials.

The Department of Trade and Industry issued last year an administrative order that banned the export of rawhides from cows, carabaos, goats and sheep, wet blues, crust (including vegetable leather), splits chrome, and split crust.

The trade department justified the ban by noting that small and medium industries in footwear and leather goods needed a continuous supply of rawhides and finished leather at competitive prices.

Ng said both steel makers and shoemakers suffered from a worldwide shortage of their raw materials.

Scrap metal is insufficient because of the protectionist policies of major steel-supplying countries and rawhide is in short supply because of the mad cow and hoof and mouth diseases that have plagued Europe's livestock, he said. ***Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***

FBDC, Sta. Lucia to build ₱1.6-B Bonifacio tower

FORT Bonifacio Development Corp. and Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. are set to build a P1.6-billion residential tower at the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

In a news briefing yesterday, FBDC senior vice president Vicente Tinsay III said FBDC was also set to close a deal with the SM group of companies to develop a high-end shopping mall.

These projects are part of over P3 billion worth of deals that FBDC expects to book this year, Metro Pacific Corp. vice president David Nugent said.

Metro Pacific is FBDC's parent firm.

Nugent reported that in the first six months of the year, FBDC had already closed some P1.47 billion worth of sales, up 43 percent from a year earlier.

He said FBDC would likely post profits in excess of P20 million in the first half of the year.

Out of over P3 billion worth of property deals targeted for the full year, the lion's share of about P2 billion will come from lot sales, FBDC vice president for sales and leasing Lilibeth Andalis said.

"Business is back at the Bonifacio Global City," Tinsay said. "Level of transactions currently under negotiation or discussion is approximately higher than the past couple of years combined." ***Doris C. Dumlao***

Globe's first-half net beats estimates

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBE Telecom Inc. announced yesterday a first-half net income of P3.1 billion that analysts said beat most estimates and put the firm on track to meet full-year earnings forecasts of around P6 billion.

Analysts said wireless subscriber growth at the country's second-largest phone firm remained strong in the second quarter, outstripping rivals, although it was expected to fall back in the second half.

The firm, whose main shareholders include local conglomerate Ayala Corp., Singapore Telecommunications and Deutsche Telekom, said earlier that first-half net earnings grew 22 percent from P2.55 billion a year ago.

The results included contributions from cellular firm Isla Communications Inc., which was folded in and consolidated with Globe from the second half of 2001.

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LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Tastes

NONYA BUFFET. Minced chicken spring rolls with chili sauce, prawns in pineapple soup, *bak wan kepiting* (crabmeat and pork balls soup), *onde-onde* (sweet potato flour balls with pandan and shedded coconut), *babi pong tey* (pork with *taucheo*) and *bangkuan in chai* with bean sauce (*singkamas* wrapped in native lettuce leaves)

SYLVIA Tay Remoortele in her kitchen

Dining with *Sylvia*

Text by Bambi Harper
Photos by Betoy Johnson

In her cooking, the wife of the Belgian ambassador celebrates the cuisine of her ancestry, the Nonya people of Singapore

MOST people imagine that dining with ambassadors would be a formal state affair with sophisticated dishes and hundreds of pieces of cutlery. Well sometimes it is, but other times, for informal luncheons, accomplished hostess Sylvia Tay, wife of Belgian Ambassador Roland van Remoortele, believes that you can present the kind of food that is memorable yet immediately creates a comfortable atmosphere for the successful exchange of ideas and opinions.

DINING/ p.C3

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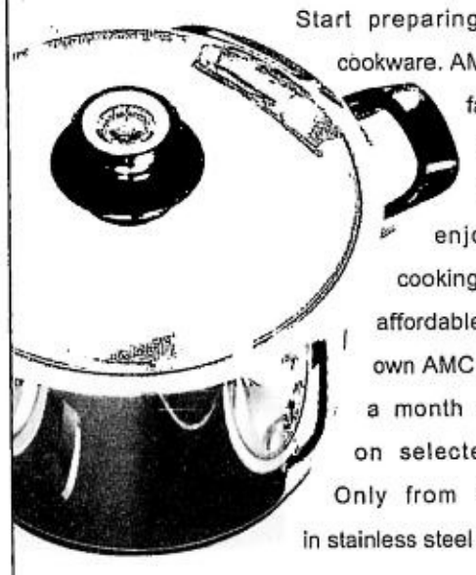

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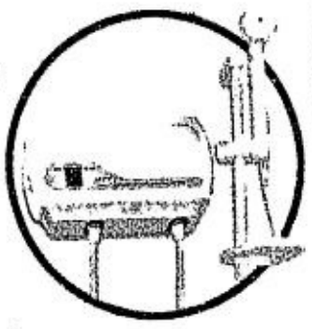

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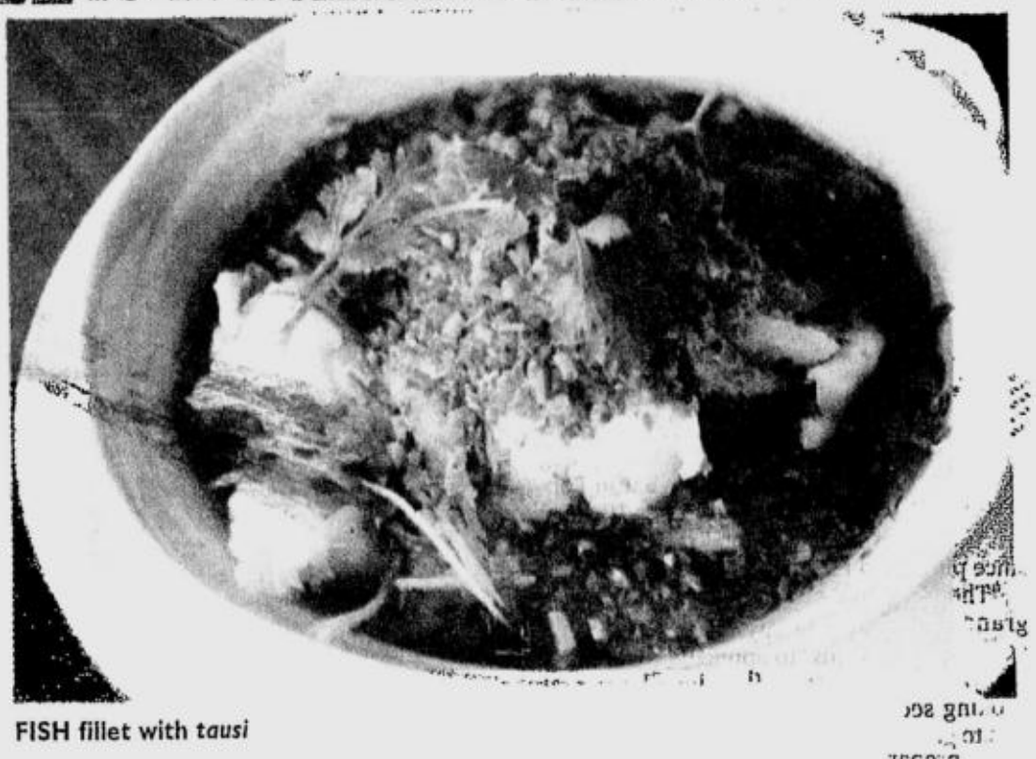
Sofah reinvents traditional Chinese cuisine for contemporary tastes



FISH fillet with *tausi*

Vintage Chinese food with a twist

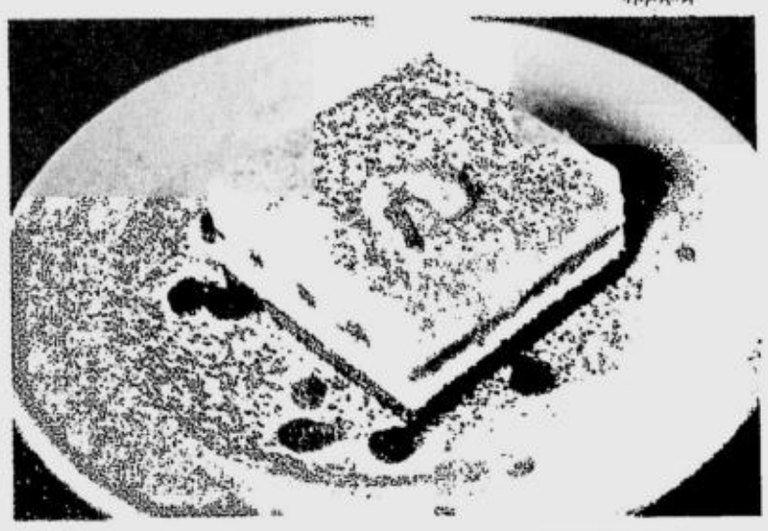
By Remy M. Umerez
Contributor

WE ALL grew up eating Chinese food. Long before we knew the meaning of tempura, sushi and sashimi, there was Mamon Luk, which served chicken *mami* and *siopao* unbeatable in quantity and taste, and Panciteria Ramon Lee, which was famous for its fried chicken. On a Sunday lunch-out, the magic word was "Chinese," as if that was the only kind of food that existed.

Now as then, the appeal of Chinese dishes has not diminished despite the many restaurants offering other Asian cuisine.

Sofah (tels. 523-2058 and 400-6572) is one restaurant that still offers traditional Chinese cooking, minus the huge aquarium where the customers can have a pick of the catch of the day. There are no round tables equipped with lazy-Susans on top.

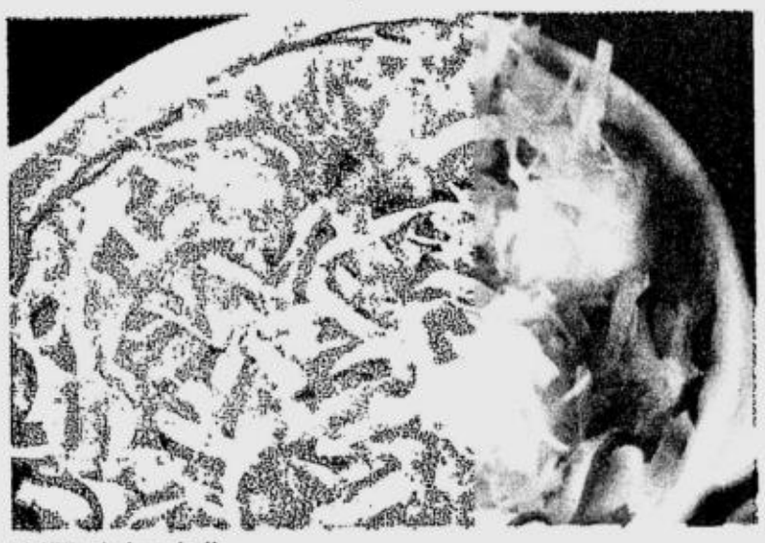
FRIED spareribs with salt and pepper



BLUEBERRY cheesecake

STEVEN Go, owner, and Eleanor Lee, GM

"Maintaining and caring for the fish is so *matrabaho*. Do you know that a mosquito bite can easily kill a crab? And round tables occupy so much space," says Eleanor Lee, GM of Sofah.



FRIED shrimp balls

Located at 571 Gen. Malvar and Jorge Bocobo Sts. Malate, Manila—near the Pan Pacific Hotel and Dakota Mansion—Sofah is a three-story building with a dining capacity of 40 persons on its first and second floors. On the third floor is another dining area and a function room that can accommodate 80 persons. It is open seven days a week, from 11:30 a.m.-3 a.m.

The owner of Sofah is Steven Go, whose fondness for food inspired him to operate a fast-food Chinese catering service in Tutuban almost a decade ago. The venture was successful, which led him to expand his food business. So he put up Sofah.

Why a name so un-Chinese, not even Taiwanese, Steven's ethnic roots?

"No particular reason," the 43-year-old Steven says. "It just popped in my mind. It was my wife Coney, also a Taiwanese, who urged me to branch out on a larger scale because I love treating friends."

Now that he has given his friends a new haven for eating, Steven has found it all the more fascinating to discover new recipes and to reinvent traditional ones. "The secret of good cooking lies in the flavor and the blending of herbs and overnight marinating," he says.

There are about 100 dishes on the menu and you can avail of as many as your ATM account can afford. A two-star indicates that the food is extra special and a bestseller, as in Seafood Bihon Guisado (noodles); Hot and Sour Soup, which is spicy; Seafood Paella de Chino; Fried Frogleg with Bell Pepper; Beef Stew with Radish; Fried Long Bean with Minced Pork (also spicy); Broccoli with Toasted Garlic; and Diced Chicken in Hot Chili.

Sofah's one-star dishes are the staple of every Chinese restaurant in town; they are nonetheless good. How many times have we ordered beef with *ampalaya*, crispy lemon chicken, sweet and sour pork, fried shrimp ball (presented differently with layers of stripped fried *lumpia* wrappers), or Fookien fried rice? Sofah serves all these and more.

Diners are treated to equally tempting specialties like the Fish Fillet Taoso (*taoso* is a yellow bean and is different from the black *tausi* commonly used in most Chinese dishes), Salmon Fried Rice and Kua Chai Kiampong (green mustard fried rice).

Another recommendable is the Shrimp Dumpling (more popularly known as *hagao*), which packs pure shrimp with every bite. Other must-tastes are the Salmon Spice Salt and Chicken Mango rolls.

New entrées are introduced on a quarterly basis. Steven says he always improves on their bestsellers. The prices have remained affordable. In fact, since Sofah opened eight months ago, there has been no price increase even though the cost of basic food commodities have since tripled. Eleanor prefers going to the wet market where almost everything is available and always fresh.

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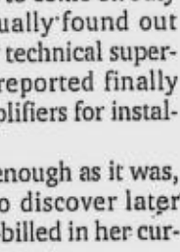
Complaints on NSO Helpline and Sky Cable plus other gripes

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron



NO DOUBT about it, the National Statistics Office Help Plus Line service is fast and convenient, says Kimi Chan. As for issuing receipts, however, that leaves much to be desired. Chan called the NSO helpline for certified copies of her birth certificate. She was instructed by the telephone operator to deposit P635 in a bank as payment for three copies of the document.

The documents were promptly delivered. But when she read the receipt, only P330 was credited instead of the P635 she paid. Chan called the NSO helpline to inquire and was told that P305 went to service fees, including the courier charge.

Chan said, "I have no qualms paying for the service. It makes life so much easier. But how come, NSO helpline does not disclose the breakdown for the amount customers actually pay? What is the point of issuing a receipt?"

Still on NSO Help Plus Line, Edwin Pinero Cariño of Silliman Campus, Dumaguete City, is one more disgruntled consumer. He wrote to us, "I asked for two copies of my birth certificate and paid the full charges at the local branch office of Metrobank. When I received the document, however, there was only one copy. I called them up promptly and complained. They asked for my reference transaction number so they could check it on their computer. In the meantime, my phone bill was accumulating as I waited for the result."

That was seven months ago and many costly follow-up calls. Cariño complained, "Up to now, I have not received the missing copy of my birth certificate."

Sky Cable complaint

A litany of woes, indeed, was the experience of Cynthia Evidente, a loyal subscriber of Sky Cable since 1995. Last July 13, she stayed home to wait for the technical support crew that was scheduled to install an indoor amplifier, which would remedy the blurred reception on the cable TV screen. The crew failed to come. Consistently after that day, they stood her up four times despite confirmed schedules. Evidente said, "They never ran out of excuses like 'If not today, then tomorrow,' or '*Pakihintay na lang hanggang* 6 p.m.,' or '*Di ba kayo napuntahan, bukas na lang.*' "

The worst was yet to come on July 24 when she eventually found out that the Quezon City technical supervisor of Sky Cable reported finally that they had no amplifiers for installation.

Things were bad enough as it was, but Evidente had to discover later that she was double-billed in her current statement of account.

Cellphone thief

Even in farflung Quezon province, cellular phone thieves prowl offices and don't spare low-income employees. Here's a letter from pimoquezon_cocobanana@hotmail.com: "Beware of a salesperson who comes to the office promoting a widely-circulated Asian magazine. He kept talking to me while he signed his name on the log book to check out. I saw him place his cellular phone beside the logbook. My own phone was hidden under sheets of paper beside the computer. But I was so distracted by his sales talk and did not notice that he was able to swipe my cellular phone on his way out. He just disappeared. I only earn P176 a day and it took me a long time to save up and buy that phone."

Consumer group against imports

"Taas-Noo Gawang Pinas" or "Yes! Philippine-Made" is the battle cry of a group called Movement for Consumer Power (MCP), which is out to campaign against the free entry of imported goods into the local market. "We cannot ignore the plight of our workers being displaced by collapsing domestic industries like shoes, garments and handicrafts," said Agnes Devanadera, MCP president.

"MCP will mobilize consumers, especially housewives and the youth who are still in the process of establishing their buying behavior. We appeal to their conscience, as well as their sense of patriotism to save the local industries," Devanadera stated.

A former president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, she pointed out that the movement is not against globalization, but the lack of preparation and safety nets that should have primed local industries to meet global competition. She said she supports imposition of safeguard tariffs on imported products.

E-mail the columnist at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph or lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Classes on food business

THE MAYA Kitchen Culinary Arts Center features classes in cooking and baking that can help in managing food business.

Learn the commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies and cakes, including costing, production batching with actual hands-on at Maya Kitchen's Bakery and Bakeshop class on Aug. 10, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Coinciding with this is Pasta Cooking. There will also be Certificate Courses for Adults with pre-registration requirements, which are very beneficial for beginners, messmen and stewards, like Cooking I (Basic) which is slated on Aug. 13-16 and Aug. 27-30, 1:30-5 p.m.

For restaurant operators who want to know the "what's in and what's out" in restaurant management, there's Restaurant Operations course on Aug. 16 and 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit the Maya Kitchen at the 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 892-1185 or 892-5011 local 108.

Dining with Sylvia

From page C1

In her cooking, Sylvia celebrates the cuisine of her ancestry, the Nonya people—Chinese families in search of a better life who fled the mainland 200 years ago and came to live peacefully in the Straits of Singapore. The family of Sylvia's grandmother settled in the Riau Islands off Indonesia, where she and her husband later started a clove and nutmeg plantation. Sylvia grew up trilingual in Fookien, English and Malay, and in her 12 years of marriage to Ambassador Remoortele has since picked up Flemish and French.

"The hallmark of every good cook," her grandmother would say, "is a skill called *agak*," which means "to approximate." Young Nonya girls are expected to pick up family cooking secrets handed down from generation to generation by carefully observing their elders prepare traditional meals.

Nonya food is a sensuous blend of flavors: bland and rich, fragrant and fiery. It is Chinese cooking imbued with Malay overtones, a kind of fusion that has evolved with time and the introduction of local ingredients. Lemon grass (*serai*), *galangal* (*lengkuas*), turmeric, tamarind, screw pine, cinnamon bark —all these and much more add to the unique taste of Nonya food.

Their spring rolls (fried *lumpia* to us) have a filling of minced chicken, carrots, *singkamas*, garlic and fermented soya beans (*taucheo*). While we eat ours with vinegar, the Straits Chinese eat theirs with a fiery chili sauce.

Their stewed pork is closer in taste to the Chinese *humba* than it is to our *adobo* since they use no vinegar but, instead, stew the pork in cinnamon *taucheo*, dark soy sauce, sugar and salt. Known as *babi pong tey* or pork with *taucheo*, the modern Nonyas find it ideal as picnic food that they eat with French bread. (In the same manner perhaps that flaked *adobo* meat in *pan de sal* is especially enticing for breakfast or *merienda*).

PREPARED ingredients for Nonya buffet

Particularly memorable in that lunch with Sylvia was the crab ball soup (*bak wan kepiting*) that consists of mixing minced pork with crabmeat, an egg, sugar, light soy sauce and fish paste (optional), to form a ball. Garlic is fried in lard, bamboo shoots added together with chicken stock and water. When the broth boils, add the crab balls and as these rise to the surface, your soup is done. These recipes often form the menu for auspicious occasions like weddings but are certainly suitable for a lunch with friends.

Sylvia not only cooks well but also is—get this—a certified civil engineer and a remarkably capable artist of traditional Chinese painting, an avocation she picked up when the couple was posted in Beijing.

Since their arrival nearly four years ago, Sylvia has had two exhibits. National Artist Arturo Luz was heard to remark in the last one at Oakwood that Chinese painting has its own discipline that isn't easy to learn, but that Sylvia had managed superbly.

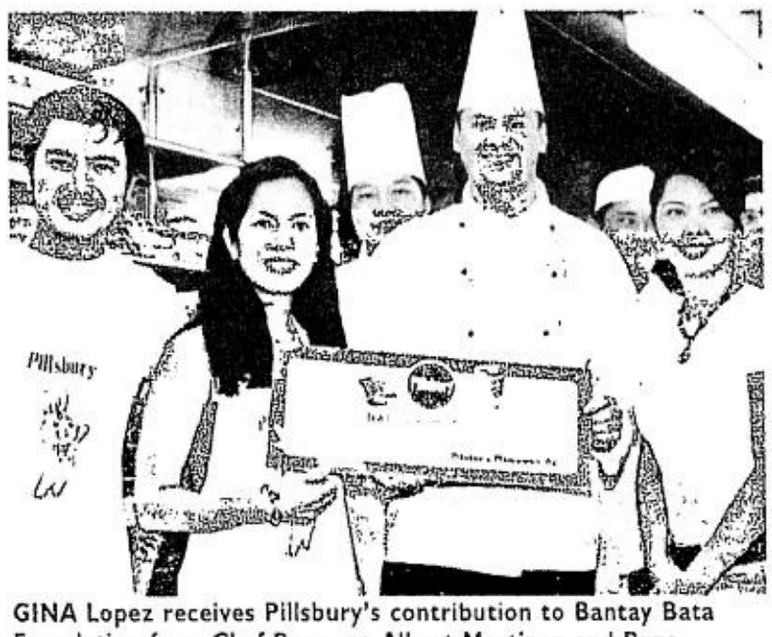
Since spouses of Belgian diplomats are not allowed to work, Sylvia made it a point to learn a skill or to write for the Straits Times as she did from Zaire in their different postings. During their four years in the Philippines, she took diving lessons, passed the test successfully and is now a certified diving instructor.

No more little fish sightings for Sylvia who can't weigh more than 100 pounds. Now she's after the big ones when she dives for pleasure. In the 12 years Roland and Sylvia have been married (they met romantically enough in an elevator), they have been posted to Beijing, Zaire, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, and they now look forward to Malaysia. One wonders what other skills Sylvia will add to her repertoire in their next posting in Malaysia. Whatever it is, you can assume it will be done with the same refinement as the previous ones she acquired.

SYLVIA in the Nonya gown she wore to her brother's recent wedding. It consists of a skirt mat that is a batik sarong and an embroidered chiffon blouse. This kind of blouse is worn unlined and has no buttons, but is held together by a gold brooch that is usually a family heirloom.

ERIC Quizon helps the chefs slice the Pillsbury dough.

MAURICE Arcache and Dyan Castillejo



GINA Lopez receives Pillsbury's contribution to Bantay Bata Foundation from Chef Bono, as Albert Martinez and Pops Fernandez look on.

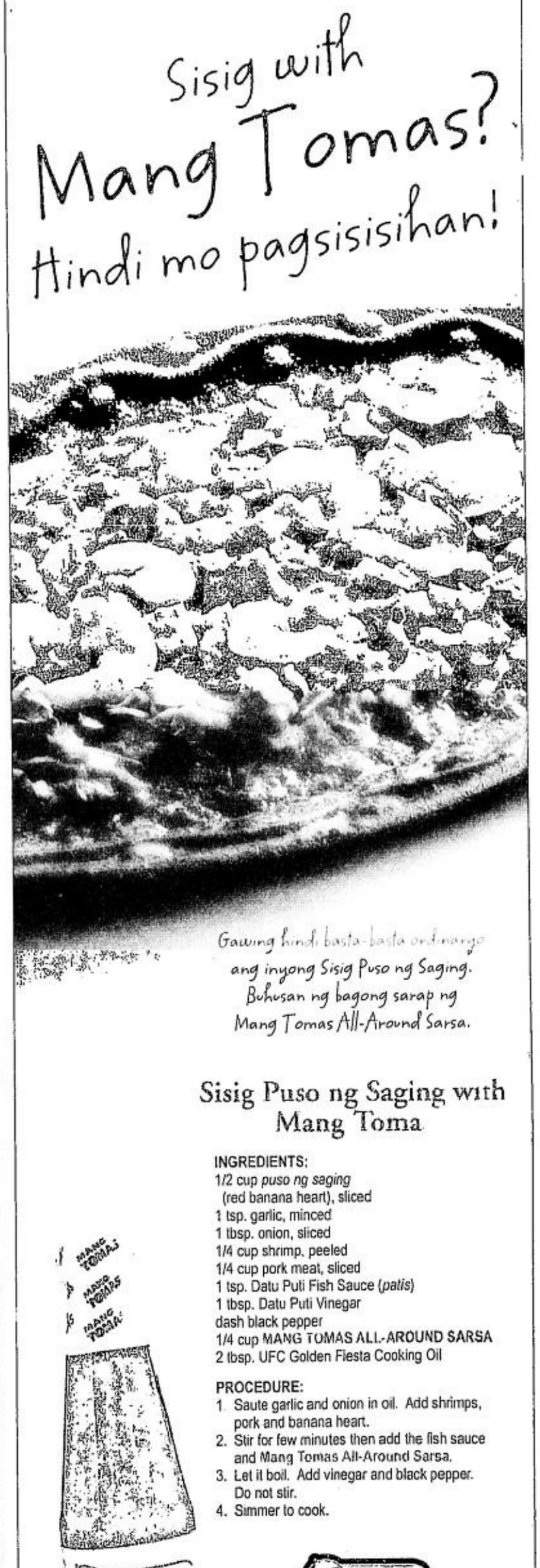
In the dough

CELEBRITIES donned Pillsbury aprons and baked up a storm recently using Pillsbury Refrigerated Cookie Dough. "Sports Unlimited's" adventurous hosts, Marc Nelson and Dyan Castillejo, got their hands on the dough first. Gina Lopez of Bantay Bata and Mariko Tajonera also gamely wielded a knife and sliced up half a tray's worth of cookie disks. Eric Quizon not only donned the apron, but also the Pillsbury toque. He even took charge of slipping the cookie sheets into the ovens.

Couples who gave it a try included Albert and Liezl Martinez; Ricco and Tina Ocampo; and Philip and Trish Cu-Unjieng.

There was also a mini ceremony in the kitchen as Pillsbury handed over huge check mock-ups of their contributions to Bantay Bata and the Museo Pambata Foundation Inc. Gina Lopez and Tina Maristela Ocampo received the checks on behalf of the organizations.

Pillsbury's Refrigerated Cookie Dough, which is now available in leading supermarkets, makes baking fast, easy and fun. Its "Hot and fresh in minutes" credo translates into a plateful of warm and chewy cookies, in flavors like chocolate chip, white chocolate chunk, peanut butter, oatmeal chocolate chip and chocolate chip with M&Ms.



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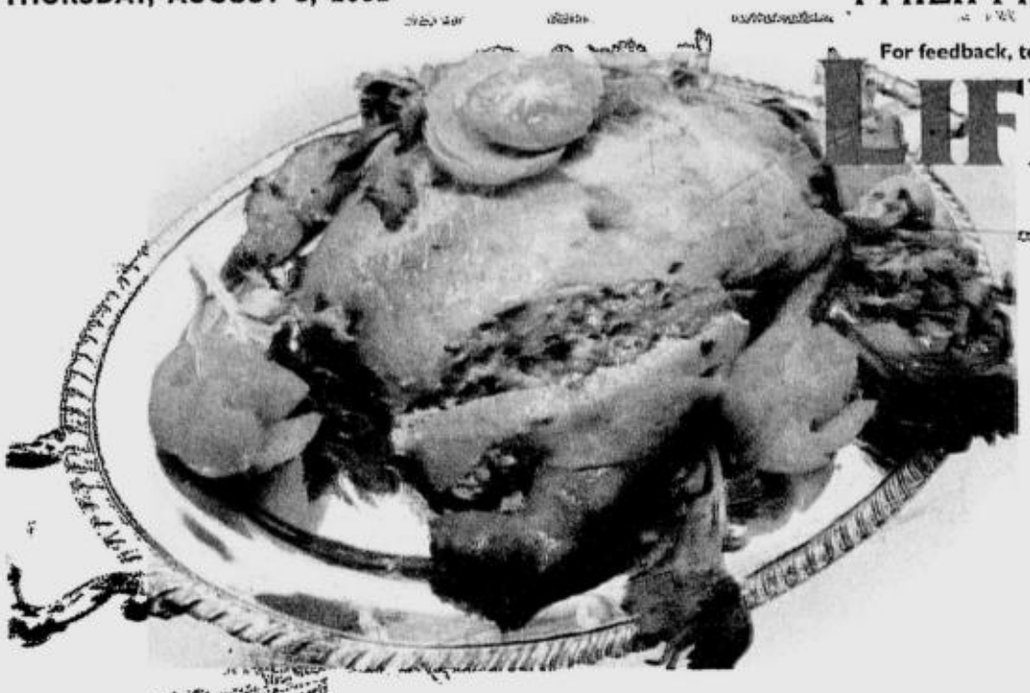
LIFESTYLE

Tastes



There are many ways to stuff poultry but Agnes Quintos' way turns out a visually appealing and delicious dish

A festive way to serve chicken

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Johnny Villena

BEING the youngest of eight siblings, Agnes de la Torre had lots of fond memories of growing up in a big family. Among her treasured moments were the long hours with her mom in the kitchen preparing their favorite dishes. The young Agnes would help in chopping, slicing and peeling. "I loved the kitchen because I got to eat raw tomatoes," she recalls.

But even if Agnes enjoyed assisting her mom, she never really took cooking seriously. It was only when she got married that Agnes was, in a way, forced to do a lot of cooking for her own big family. At 20, she married Ricardo "Ding" Quintos and the babies came one after the other, 12 of them.

PRIVATE SPECIALTY

No joke

Feeding a dozen children was no joke. No two kids are the same. "Some of them were hard to feed and the others, big-eaters," she says. "Preparing their food was also very exhausting. Sometimes, after preparing and serving their breakfast, I'm in the kitchen again cooking lunch. *Hindi na ako lumalabas sa kusina*."

To Agnes' credit, she also taught her children to take care of each other. When some of them were big enough to care for the little ones, Agnes had a chance to get out and enroll in cooking schools "because I wanted to offer my family a variety of dishes they haven't tried and tasted."

Soon enough, Agnes learned to prepare Japanese, Chinese, Thai and other Asian dishes. Whenever she traveled abroad, she took short courses on other specialized cuisine. She also learned French cuisine from Princess Marie Blanche de Broglie.

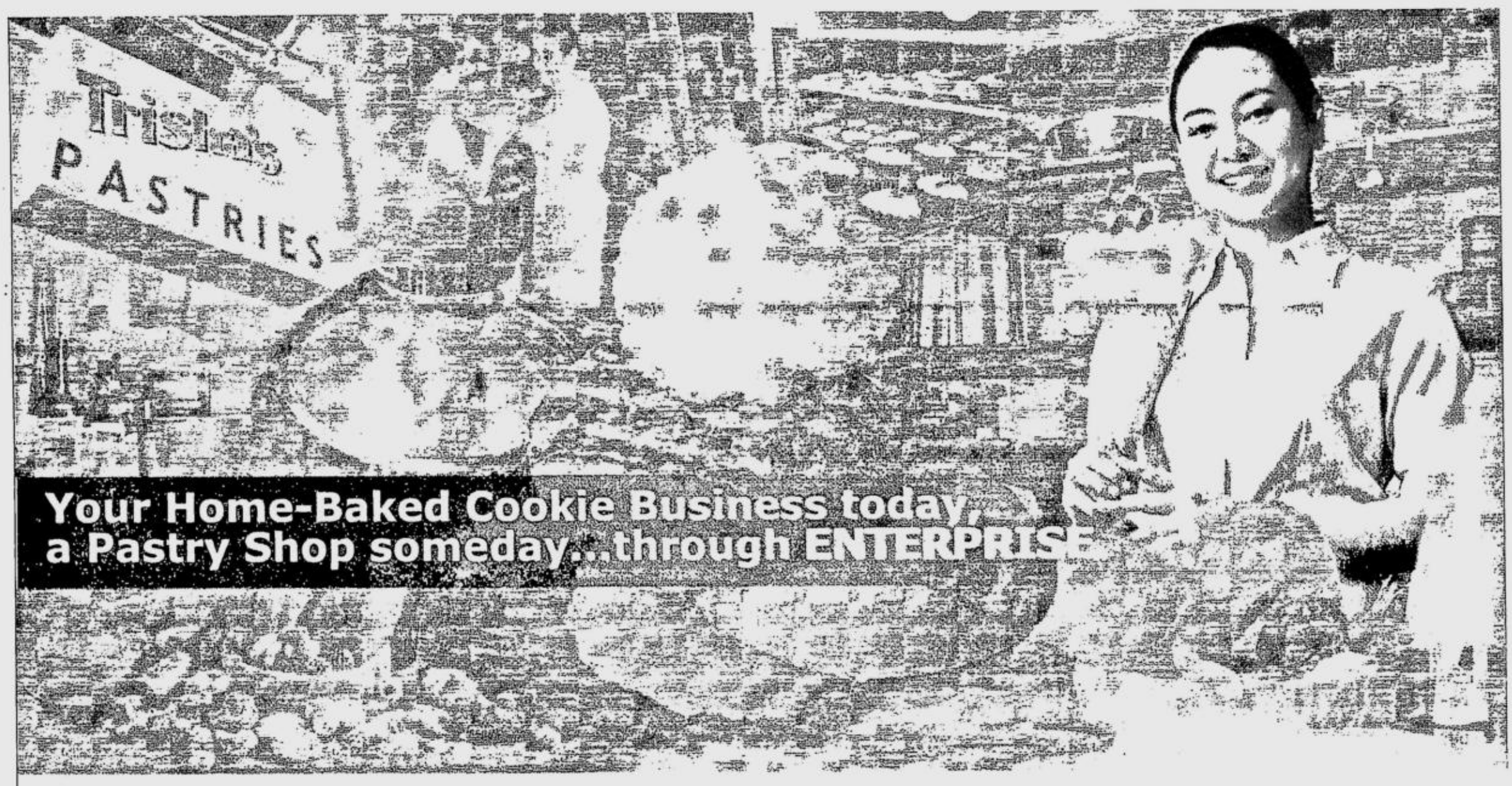
At one time, she and her businessman-husband, who was one of the country's pioneers in raising duck, ran a restaurant that was sold to them by an Australian couple during the '80s. Called Sids, the restaurant served continental food and fresh seafood. They also introduced duck specialties, including cordon blue using duck breast. The restaurant, for a time, became a favorite haunt of Makati yuppies until Agnes and Ding decided to close it down after five years because they got tired from the demands of the business.

Time to experiment

Now that all her children are grown up—some of them are happily married—64-year-old Agnes has more time for herself and her

A FESTIVE/ p.D3

AGNES Quintos' chicken relleno is a family favorite, along with her bouillabaisse, oyster Rockefeller and Caesar salad.



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one with the filipino family

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Tel. Nos: _____

zed

"Serial Downloader" | 24 | M
Dr. Zedmund Freud M.D.

Aug. 8, 2002

Patient displays aggressive behaviour. Tried to chew off my arm when told that he will not be 7,856th person to download logo today to win Palm m100 (fig. A). Was pacified only when told that he can still win hi-tech gadgets in weekly and monthly draws everytime he downloads logos. Hitting him over the head with pickaxe handle may have helped a little. Presently in a straitjacket, continuously tells everyone to type HELP LOGOLOCO and send to 288 for information. Annoying.

fig. A

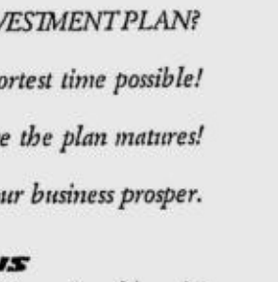


fig. B

To join zed Logo Loco, type **JOIN LOGOLOCO <name>/<address>/<birthdate (mmddyy)>/<gender>** and send to **288**. Type **HELP LOGOLOCO** and send to **288** for more info. Or type **RANDOMLOGO** and send to **288** to get a random list of keywords of logos. This promotion is open to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1351, series of 2002

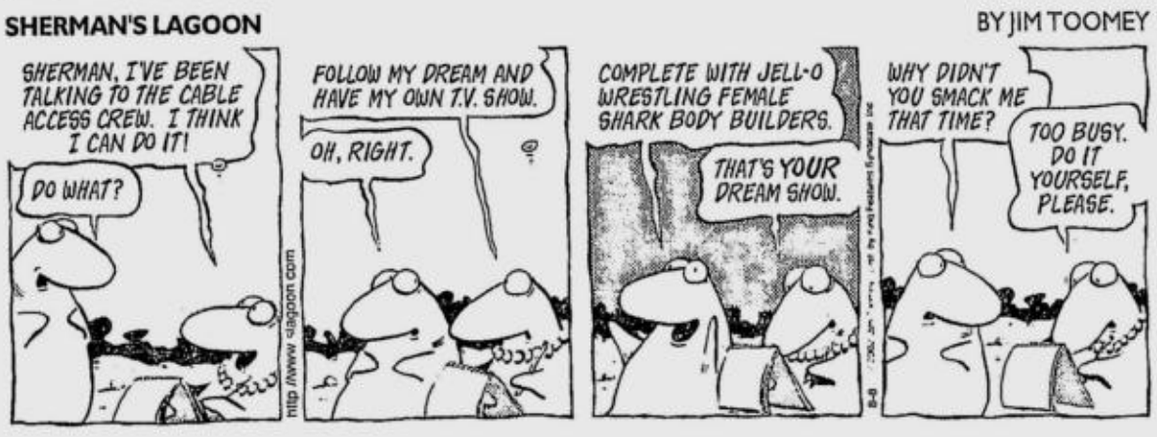
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY



SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNEL

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dustin Hoffman, Mel Tillis, Connie Stevens, Keith Carradine
Happy Birthday: You can only rely on yourself and your own efforts. Reevaluate and decide if you need help or if you can cut out the middleman and do a great job yourself. Much will depend on the choices you make this year. Your future will rest on the decisions you make over the next several months. You numbers are 10, 19, 26, 32, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your creative self-expression will be enhanced and you'll attract friends and garner attention at a social gathering. Concentrate on developing your creative abilities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The opportunity to move to larger quarters is evident today. It is probable visitors will drop by and that your home will be a high-traffic area. You may need some peace and quiet by the end of the day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Expect to have more communication with family, friends and neighbors. You will be on the go from morning to night, trying to meet all your demands.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Sudden changes regarding your personal paperwork or older relatives will leave you in an awkward position. You may have to make some quick adjustments if you want to avoid an unsavory situation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your increased energy must be channeled positively if you want to avoid mishaps. Physical activity should be on your agenda. You will be self-confident, aggressive and competitive in all you do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Secret financial dealings are likely. You will be confused regarding spending habits and must be careful not to overspend. Put your talent to work for you .

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Public relations and social activities will help you get ahead. This is a great day to establish both business and emotional partnerships. Be confident in your approach.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be inclined to make changes in your personal and professional life far too quickly today. Mistakes are likely to be made if you don't think before you act. You can expect to be challenged by whomever you contront.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will work hard today, but you'll probably have trouble getting along with others. You will enjoy learning about all sorts of different places and should enjoy surfing the Internet. Make positive changes.

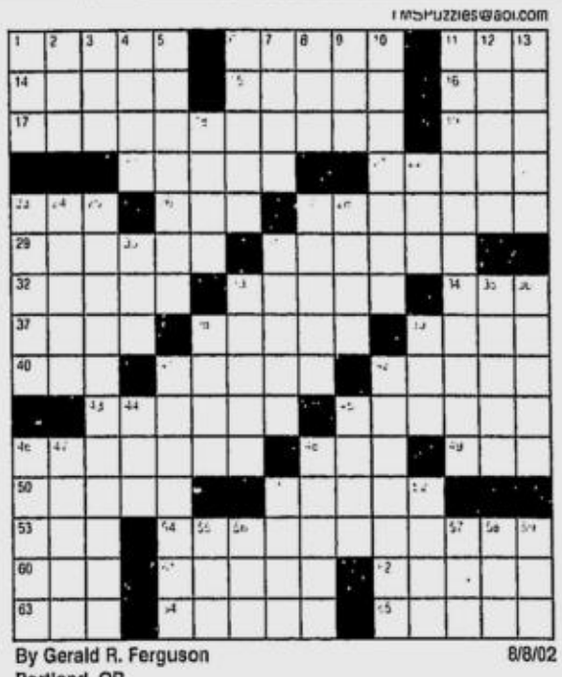
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Unusual circumstances will surround your financial dealings today, so don't be too quick to agree to something. You can make money through unusual means but make certain that the deal is on the up-and-up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will pick the wrong people to invest with or socialize with today. Use more discrimination if you don't want to be taken advantage of. Be prepared to listen without making judgments.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your personal charm will be hard for others to resist. Express yourself through your creative attributes. The more unique you are in your approach to your work, the better you will do.

Birthday Baby: You will be charismatic, but with purpose. You will have a good head on your shoulders and you'll know how to make things happen. You will be practical yet generous.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR

8/8/02

ACROSS
1 All grown up
6 Mixes
11 Naughty
14 As yet
15 Military student
16 Pres. Lincoln
17 Halt quickly and precisely
19 Half a dance?
20 Tuscany city
21 Minolta rival
23 Brit's raincoat
26 Krazy __
27 Computer bandits
29 Ark's resting place
31 Proved false
32 Burrowing mammals
33 Disney's mermaid
34 Single cereal grain
37 Lacking locks
38 Makes indistinct
39 Get hot under the collar
40 "Exodus" hero
41 Foolish old fogies
42 Ovid's tongue
43 Power seat
45 Climber's spikes
46 Ask
48 Share of the loot
49 Opponent
50 Sentence subjects
51 Tobacco kilns
53 Cycle or sex lead-in
54 Cease operations
60 Balderdash
61 Durkheim or Zola
62 Elevate
63 Two before U
64 Burghoff role
65 Water vapor

DOWN
1 Nincompoop
2 Morse symbol
3 E.T.'s transport
4 Track circuits
5 Russian carriages
6 Meager
7 Voilal
8 Ugandan Amin
9 Michael Stipe's group
10 Lettering device
11 Failed to keep a commitment
12 Loathe
13 College VIPs
18 Clean and tidy
22 Eisenhower
23 Lethal snake
24 Like the pounding surf
25 Throw in the towel
27 Will's names
28 Beer picks
30 Comic Skelton
31 Entirely physical
33 Isolated
35 __ acids
36 Uptight
38 Rude person
39 Blubber
41 Fridge drawer
42 Stretchers
44 Attila the __
45 Blackjack draw
46 Habituate
47 Childhood taboos
48 Provide food
51 Earthenware crock
52 Brief quarrel
55 Ms. Thurman
56 Top
57 Invent facts
58 1996 Olympics host
59 Precious one

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	R	I	A		H	O	R	A	S		A	L	M	S
F	A	C	E	T	O	F	A	C	E		M	O	A	T
T	H	E	R	E	A	F	T	E	R		P	U	N	Y
			A	N	G	S	T		S	H	I	L	L	
S	P	O	T	T	Y		E	Y	E	T	O	E	Y	E
U	R	G	E			O	R	A	T	O	R			
N	O	D		C	D	S		M	A	L	A	I	S	E
U	S	E		H	A	W		A	P	E		N	U	N
P	E	N	S	I	V	E		H	E	N		L	I	T
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O	U	S	T	S			D	A	T	E	D			
R	I	S	E		E	C	U	M	E	N	I	C	A	L
A	J	A	R		N	O	S	E	T	O	N	O	S	E
H	A	Y	S		C	L	A	S	S		A	P	S	E

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8/8/02

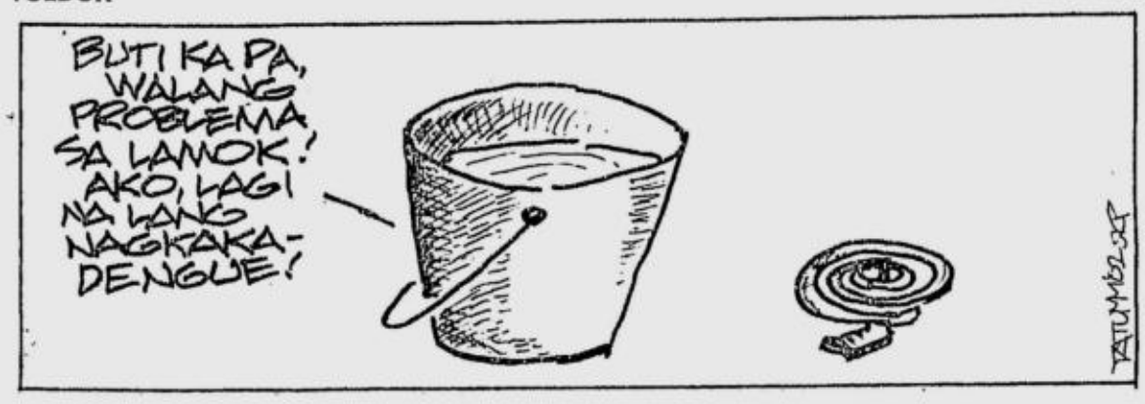
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

GENG'S GAMES BY AMIEL RUFO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



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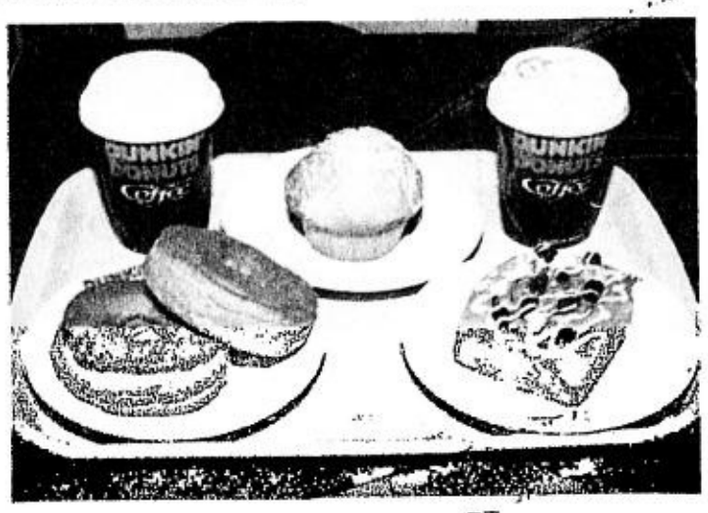

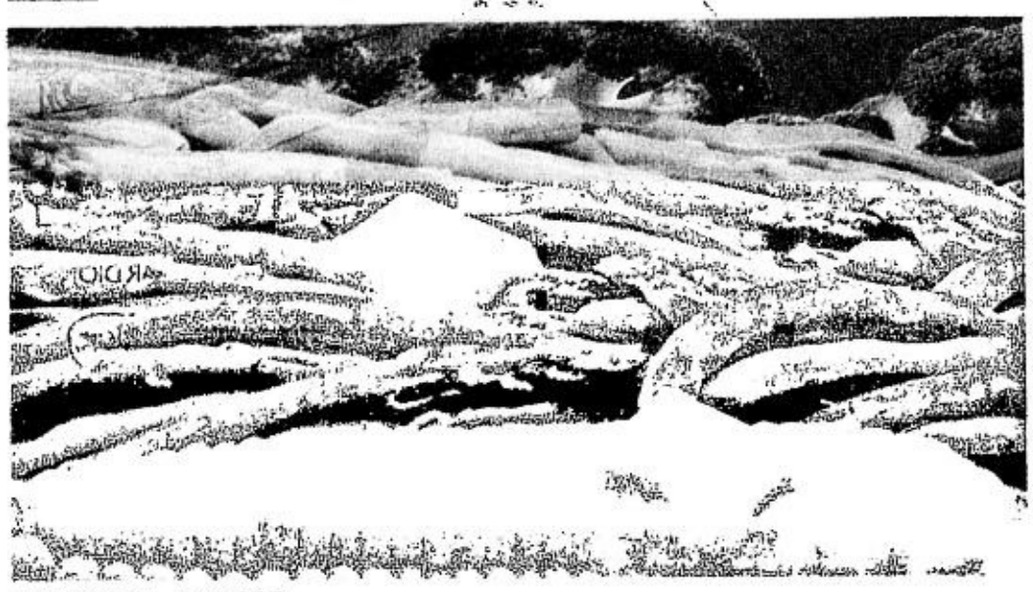

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A festive way to serve chicken

From page D1

cooking. She loves to read cookbooks and keeps a roomful of cookbooks collected from all over the world.

She enjoys experimenting. Her chicken relleno, a hearty chicken meal, is the result of numerous kitchen tests and experimentation. It's the most requested dish for noche buena and other special family get-togethers. During holidays, Agnes gives her chicken relleno as gifts to friends, making four to five chickens in a day.

"I learned the recipe from the Dayrit cookbook, and made revisions to make it easier to prepare," says Agnes. In the original recipe, the ingredients were mostly imported and expensive. Instead of imported cheese, she uses local cheddar cheese and other Pinoy brands for chorizo de bilbao and sausages.

Chicken Relleno

For soaking deboned chicken:
1 whole chicken (1.2 -1.5 k)
3 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp *calamansi* juice

For stuffing:
½ k ground lean pork
1 pc chorizo de bilbao (Goiti brand)
½ c crushed pineapple
2 cans Vienna sausage (any local brand)
12 pcs green olives, chopped
1/3 c raisins
5 beaten eggs
2/3 c pickle relish
½ c grated cheddar cheese (any local brand)
Salt and pepper to taste
Butter
5 slices American bread sliced into ½-inch squares and soaked in evaporated milk

Debone the chicken, carefully leaving meat and skin preserved. Big bones of the wings and legs must be removed. Soak deboned chicken with *calamansi* and soy sauce for 30 minutes. Set aside.

Mix together ground pork, sausage, chorizo, olives, pineapple and bread. Add beaten eggs, raisins, pickle relish and grated cheese. Season with salt and pepper, then fill the deboned chicken with stuffing and sew the opening (either through the breast or posterior). Spread butter in aluminum foil and wrap around the chicken. Place the chicken in a baking dish. Bake at 350°F for an hour. Remove the aluminum foil and continue baking until the chicken turns golden brown. Serves 10.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer. com.ph

CCA
Center for Culinary Arts, Manila

Continuing Education Program

August - September

August 2,3,9,10

Catering Management
(seminar) 1pm - 7pm P 5,500
Be an aspiring caterer and learn the ins and outs of the catering business including menu planning and recipe standardization.

August 9 & 10

The Art of Sausage Making
(participation) 9am - 2pm P 3,500
Entice family and friends with irresistible flavors of sausages. From sweet and spicy, as our chef show you how easy it is to make home made sausages.

August 10

Sweet Sensation
(participation) 10am - 3pm P1,700
Satisfy your sweet tooth with our array of rich and sinful treats.

Asian Cuisine
(participation) 9am - 2pm P1,900
Discover the taste of different Asian cultures. Prepare foods from India, Indonesia and Thailand. This course features diverse flavors, texture and distinct food preparations of each region.

August 16,17,23,24

Cost Control in Food Service Industry
(seminar) 1pm - 7pm P 5,500
Be competitive in the Foodservice-Industry! If you are an entrepreneur manager or supervisor of small and medium scale food service operation, or a teacher of hotel and restaurant administration / management learn the step by step processes and techniques in controlling cost in food service.

August 23 & 24

Intermediate Baking
(participation) 10am - 3 pm P 3,500
Learn the advance way of baking cakes and more cakes! Be thrilled to enjoy the flour-less cakes and discover a little frosting decoration techniques

August 24

Rice Topping
(participation) 9am - 2pm P 1,900
Join today s take-out craze as this class explores the creative ways to reinvent the most popular staple - rice. You'll never look at rice in the same way again

Italian Cuisine
(participation) 9am - 2pm P 1,900
Facciamo La Cucina Italiana! Indulge your palate with the flavors of the Italian dishes! Join us as you experience the taste of Italy's classic favorites.

September 6 & 7

Serve Safe
(seminar) 1pm - 8pm P 5,500
Learn the basics of food safety and sanitation and its importance in food preparation and in the food industry. This course includes the Serve Safe International Certification exam given by the NRA (National Restaurant Association) Education Foundation of United States of America.

September 6

Quiche and Crepe
(participation) 9am - 2pm P 1,900
Learn the basics of preparing quiche and crepes and how to create new exciting dishes with them.

September 7

Cakes, Tortes and Tarts
(participation) 10am - 3pm P 1,900
Bake a storm with wonderful recipes that will satisfy your craving for something sweet.

French Cuisine
(participation) 9am - 2pm P1,900
BONJOUR!!! French food LOVERS!!! Learn classical French food from Coq Au Vin to Tart Tatin!!! in this easy and exciting French cooking class.

Pasta Masterclass
(participation) 9am - 2pm P1,900
There is more to pasta than spaghetti with meatballs. Learn new & innovative recipes that would give new meaning to pasta as CCA, Manila and San Remo teach you how.

September 6,7,20,21

Fundamentals of Professional Cooking
(participation) 9am - 2pm P5,500
This much awaited course is back! This 4-day hands on course will arm you with basic culinary/cooking techniques including knife skills, basic stock and sauce preparation and a lot more.

Fundamentals of Professional Baking
(participation) 9am - 2pm P5,500
If you want to gain a solid understanding of the art and science of baking this course is for you. This course deals with the theories and formulation that equip students with the necessary knowledge to tackle the job of a patissier. Then you will use the knowledge to produce: cakes, pies, pastries and cookies. You will also learn the different cake mixing methods and know how to prepare a butter cream.

September 20 & 21

Restaurant Service Operations
(seminar) 1pm - 6pm P3,500
Learn the importance of excellent service to a successful restaurant and perform skills in setting tables, taking orders and serving food in correct and effective ways.

Reservation and Payments should be made at least 4 days before the start of the course.
Fee includes: certificate, recipes and ingredients & seminar kits
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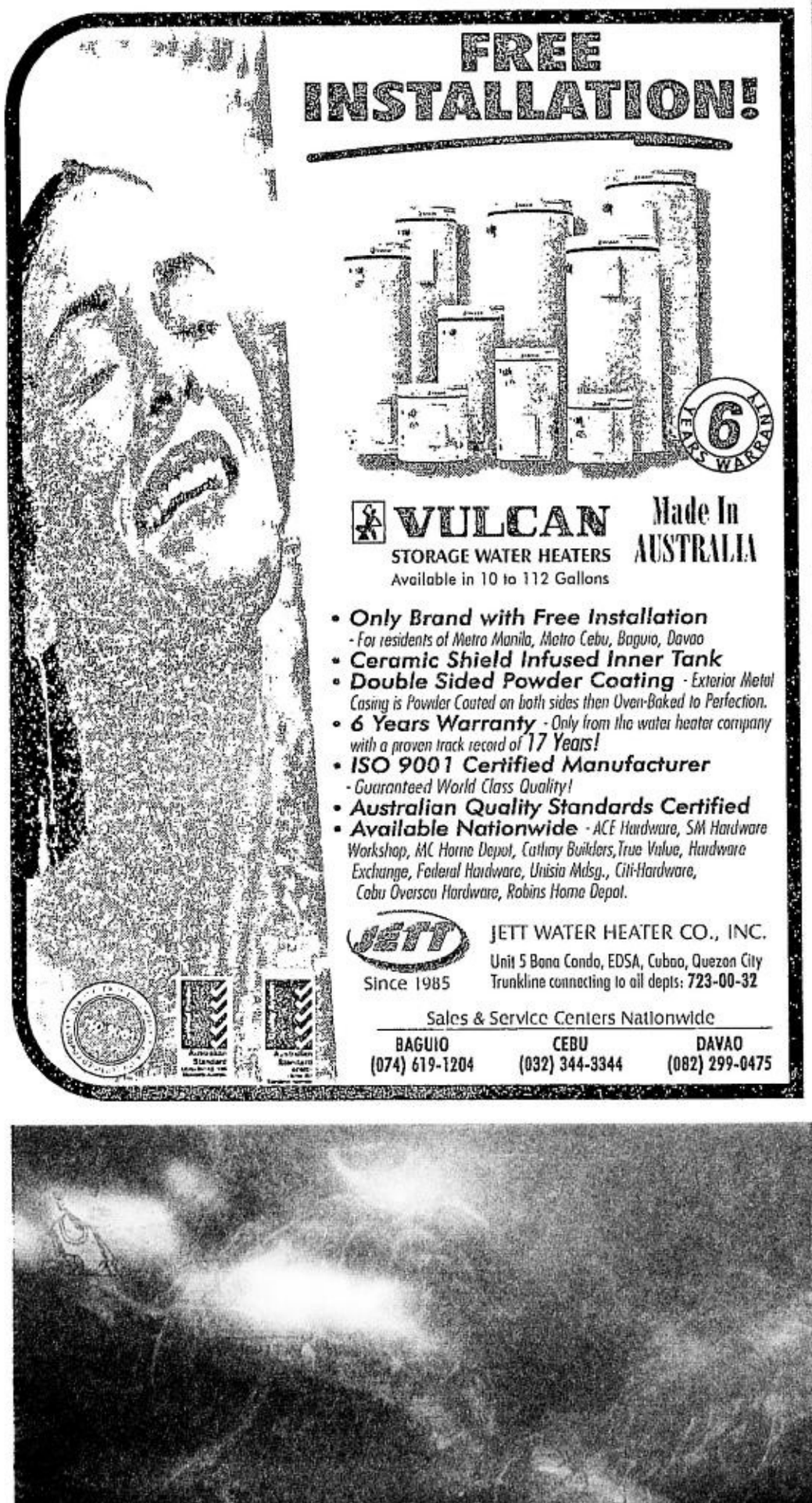
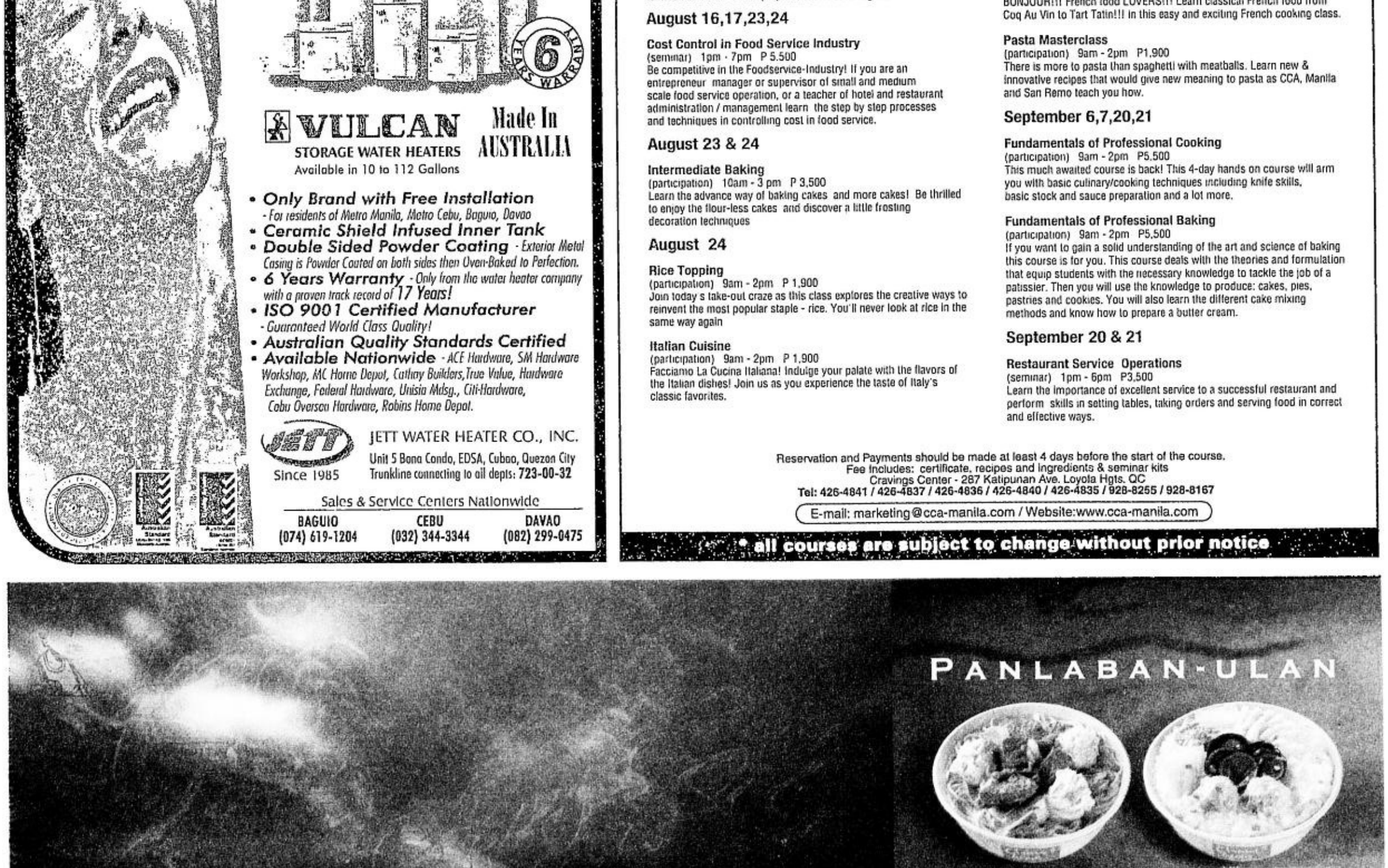
*** all courses are subject to change without prior notice**





We've captured YOUR market

Frozen $17-M Velasco Swiss accounts freed

STORY ON PAGE A2

DENNIS SABANGAN

COME blow your horn for peace; SPO3 Domingo Manlusok does during PNP Recognition Day at Camp Crame.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

3 cops shot dead in Kalinga

THREE policemen were shot dead and three others wounded in an ambush by communist guerrillas in Kalinga, a foreign wire agency said, quoting police reports.

Police said the policemen were aboard a patrol car, on their way back from a "stake-out" operation on Wednesday, when they were ambushed by an undetermined number of armed men in Lubuagan town, according to Agence France Presse. The town lies 115 kilometers north of Baguio City.

3 COPS/A18

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Friday, August 9, 2002 ★ 72 pages / 6 sections / vol.17 / no. 242 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

Gov't rushing peace pact

De Venecia: Drafting of three agreements in final stages

By Carlito Pablo
and Juliet L. Javellana

THE GOVERNMENT peace panel is rushing the completion of a draft of a proposed "final peace agreement" with the communist-led National Democratic Front amid the beating of war drums by the military and communist guerrillas.

"It is with more reason that we should pursue the path to peace," chief negotiator Silvestre Bello III said.

In a phone interview, Bello said the panel was expecting to finalize by Aug. 16-17 the draft, which will be later presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"This effort is in line with attempts not to exacerbate the situation," Bello said, referring to the exchange of bellicose statements between the two sides.

Ms Macapagal declared war on communist guerrillas on Monday. On the same day, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the President had directed Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to move troops operating against the Abu Sayyaf to areas where communist rebels were active.

The following day, Jose Ma. Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, called on the New People's Army to step up attacks on government and military installations, including power transmission lines and electrical towers.

Negotiations between the government and the NDF were suspended in June last year after the NPA killed Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, a former Constabulary colonel accused by human rights groups of torture, summary executions and other rights violations.

Bello said the peace panel, composed of himself as chair and members Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, Riza Hontiveros-Baraquel, Rene Sarmiento, and Chito Gascon, met on Aug. 7 to discuss the draft of the

GOV'T/A18

WHY Rebecca Ruga left home to work and die in Israel: To renovate her house in Barangay Sumagui, Bansud, Oriental Mindoro; to fund the heart surgery of her favorite nephew Leonardo (at right) and to help her mother Rosario with the family's daily needs. Monobloc chairs have been rented for her wake. PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Caregivers' turn to receive all the caring

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE RENOVATION of the house is not finished. On her last visit home, Rebecca Ruga promised she would finish the renovation of the family house in Barangay Sumagui in Bansud, Oriental Mindoro.

The living and dining rooms and two bedrooms are now made of concrete, thanks to Rebecca's earnings as a caregiver in Israel since June 2001. But the facade is still made of wood.

"Rebecca said she would give me a blood pressure monitor and finish the renovation of our home during her last visit here," Rebecca's mother Rosario, 68, told the INQUIRER.

"But all of that including my daughter are now gone in just one

CAREGIVERS'/A18

14 killed in rebel mortar attack in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia—Fourteen people were killed on Wednesday when rebel mortars rained on the capital during the inauguration of President Alvaro Uribe who has vowed to crush the Marxist guerrillas.

Despite heavy security—including 20,000 soldiers and policemen and a US surveillance plane—three mortars smashed into the palace, wounding three people at the building that the hardline Uribe will be occupying for the next four years.

In an apparent misfire, an equal number of mortars fell on a nearby Bogota shantytown, killing three children and 11 other people—just as the inauguration of the clean-cut, 50-year-old lawyer began in Congress.

Uribe won a landslide election victory in May promising to curb the bloodshed in the escalating 38-year-old war by boosting security with a big increase in military spending.

There were groans and mayhem on the slum streets, as bodies were pulled from a shack. A few streets away, a camouflage-clad policeman, his head bleeding, staggered from the presidential palace, a rifle hanging by his side.

Oblivious to the bombings, Uribe

14 KILLED/A19

It's final: Ombudsman can sue Doy

By Michael Lim Ubac

LET the charges be filed.

The Supreme Court yesterday rejected former Vice President Salvador Laurel's second petition to stop the Ombudsman from initiating criminal charges against him. The high court's Special First Division denied Laurel's motion for clarification for being "irrelevant."

"No further pleadings shall be allowed," the SC ruled, in a two-page resolution promulgated on Aug. 5 but signed yesterday by SC Clerk of Court Virginia Acheta-Soriano.

The ruling will finally allow the Office of the Ombudsman, now led by acting Ombudsman Margarito P. Gervacio, to immediately file graft charges with the Sandiganbayan in connection with the Centennial Expo scam in 1998.

Laurel had moved for a "clarification" of the SC resolution of July 1, which denied his motion seeking reconsideration of an adverse ruling by

IT'S/A19

Guingona hits US 'first-strike' policy vs terror

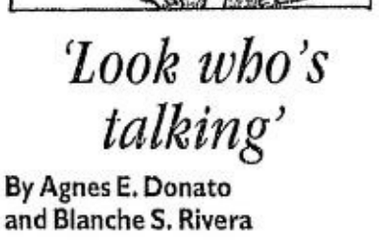
US PRESIDENT George W. Bush is endangering world peace with his "first-strike" policy against countries or groups espousing terrorism, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. charged yesterday.

Guingona, who was eased out as foreign secretary last month over differences with President Macapagal-Arroyo on American military presence in the country, said he feared the US military would use the new doctrine to unilaterally go after communist rebels or Islamic militants in the Philippine countryside.

In his first press briefing after leaving the Department of Foreign Affairs, Guingona said the US president's "preemptive first-strike policy may negate the gains and goodwill already generated from friends and foes alike" after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

"Who determines who are terrorists, who are fighters for freedom in a new land? Did not the Americans fight the British to gain independence?"

GUINGONA/A19



'Look who's talking'

By Agnes E. Donato
and Blanche S. Rivera

"I AM a grandmother all right. They did not even respect that fact. They should have kept their hands to themselves."

LOOK/A6

There's no stopping GMA from 'humiliating' suspects

By TJ Burgonio
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THERE is no stopping President Macapagal-Arroyo from parading crime suspects before the media despite criticisms that this practice violates their rights.

"I'll continue to present criminals before the public. I'll teach the lesson by humiliation if necessary," she announced yesterday at the headquarters of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) in Camp Crame, and forthwith presented seven suspected members of the Lucido-Espillore group, a supposed subgroup of the Bucala kidnap-for-ransom syndicate, as well as an ex-policeman who was the supposed leader of the Durano KFR group.

The Bucala group has been tagged the No. 1 KFR group in the country. The No. 2 such group is the Fajardo group, whose subgroup Villaver was believed neutralized with the killing of its three members and arrest of three others in Bulacan last month.

Ms Macapagal said that the Philippine National Police had been making headway in its fresh drive against

THERE'S/A20

Acsa's problem not important to Gloria

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is not about to dwell on the embarrassment resulting from the presentation of a whistle-blower as a suspect in a tax diversion scam.

"Let us not have an extended run on this issue," she said during the Land Bank of the Philippines' 39th anniversary celebration yesterday in Malacañang. "We must move on with speedy and impartial justice because most of all, we must not lose sight of the lofty aim of the Landbank, which is social amelioration especially through financing land reform."

The "issue" that Ms Macapagal referred to involved Acsa Ramirez, a cashier of the Landbank branch in Binangonan, Rizal, who had exposed a P203-million tax scam involving her colleagues.

Bank manager Artemio San Juan and two other Landbank employees have been charged with money laundering, among other offenses, as a result of Ramirez's exposé.

But somehow, Ramirez was pre sented as one of the suspects in the scam at the National Bureau of Investi-

ACSA'S/A6

Second FRONT PAGE

$17-M Velasco accounts freed

BERN, Switzerland—A state attorney said Wednesday Swiss authorities had unblocked $17 million in frozen accounts of associates of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Zurich attorney Dieter Jann confirmed a report appearing in the Thursday edition of the Swiss newspaper Weltwoche saying the sum had been released in June.

The official said the money, originally frozen on suspicion that it was ill-gotten, had been registered in the name of Marcos' energy minister, Geronimo Velasco, his nephew Alfredo de Borja and his secretary Carmencita Clavecilla.

"There was no legal basis on which to continue blocking the account," said Jann.

Philippines authorities had not made use of the avenues at their disposal to challenge the release of the money, he noted.

The same attorney last year authorized the release of $13 million belonging to Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, another Marcos associate.

The Swiss government froze the assets in 1986, one month after the overthrow of Marcos.

The Marcos family and the government have been in a legal struggle over some $659.7 million dollars in Swiss bank funds allegedly accumulated by Marcos.

In 1998, Swiss authorities released $670 million, which were then frozen on a Manila account.

A further $10 million in the names of members of the Marcos family remains frozen in Swiss accounts.

The Philippine government is understood to have so far recovered only $2 billion of the estimated fortune amassed by Marcos of between $5 and $10 billion.

The delay has been ascribed to corruption in the Philippines and the incompetence of the body given the task.

Marcos and his allies are accused of plundering some $10 billion dollars from state coffers before he was toppled in a popular revolt in 1986.

He fled to Hawaii after the revolt and died in exile in 1989 but his family has been allowed to return to the Philippines.

In Manila, Ruben Carranza Jr., commissioner of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), said that the Swiss Bank Union Bancair Privee (UBP) had claimed that it really had "no control over the funds", referring to the deposits of Velasco, De Borja and Clavecilla.

A Swiss lawyer of the PCGG said that the order of the Zurich Court of Appeals retaining the freeze on the $17 million is still existing.

"The Court of Appeals of Zurich had issued a freeze order in April which was never lifted. But there is the question whether the freeze has any effect (particularly) if the money is not there anymore," said the lawyer who requested anonymity.

He said that the Philippine government is still largely in the dark as to what had happened to the funds.

Velasco's funds were under the Amunet Foundation also known as Necktie which amounted to $15,519,972 as of December last year. ***AFP with a report from Donna Cueto***

Nani now backs top 3 bets for Ombudsman

By D. Pazzibugan

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez has changed his mind about his bet for the next Ombudsman.

He told Palace reporters yesterday that he would now endorse all the three perceived top contenders for the post.

These are Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida, Solicitor-General Simeon Marcelo and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño.

Until yesterday Perez had been endorsing Zuño, the only career official among the three.

Perez sits in the Judicial Bar Council which provides the shortlist of candidates for all judicial posts.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will choose Aniano Desierto's replacement only from the JBC's shortlist.

"To disabuse the minds of everyone that I am interested in the position (of Ombudsman), I will recommend these three," Perez said when interviewed in Malacañang yesterday.

He said each of them "is qualified, a professional and not a politician."

"On the assumption that they will be selected (by the JBC), I will recommend all of them and leave the decision up to the President," he said.

The JBC will meet on Wednesday to finalize the shortlist, Perez added.

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Barbers asks: Why John O?

By Rocky Nazareno

SEN. ROBERT Barbers has asked his administration colleagues in the Senate why Sen. John Osmeña has been allowed to retain his committee chairmanship despite bolting to the opposition.

Osmeña continues to chair the committee on government corporations and public enterprises despite an agreement among administration senators that such a decision could only be made by members of the majority.

In a statement, Barbers said it was earlier agreed upon by the administration coalition that the chairmanship of the committee on foreign relations, which was vacated by the appointment of former Sen. Blas Ople as Foreign Affairs Secretary, and the committees on finance and government corporations and public enterprises, both chaired by Osmeña, would be filled through a majority consensus.

Osmeña said it was well within the right of majority senators "to determine who chairs each and every committee in a legislative body."

"I am not taking that right way from them," he said.

Osmeña nevertheless took a dig at Barbers for "trying to shield his former boss, President Fidel Ramos" for his alleged complicity in the power purchased adjustment (PPA) charges.

"My advice to them is that they should not allow themselves to be dragged down by Ramos," he said.

Osmeña added that "even without a committee, he could always drag the PPA controversy to the floor where he will divulge all the details (on Ramos' complicity in the controversy)."

"They cannot silence me," he said.

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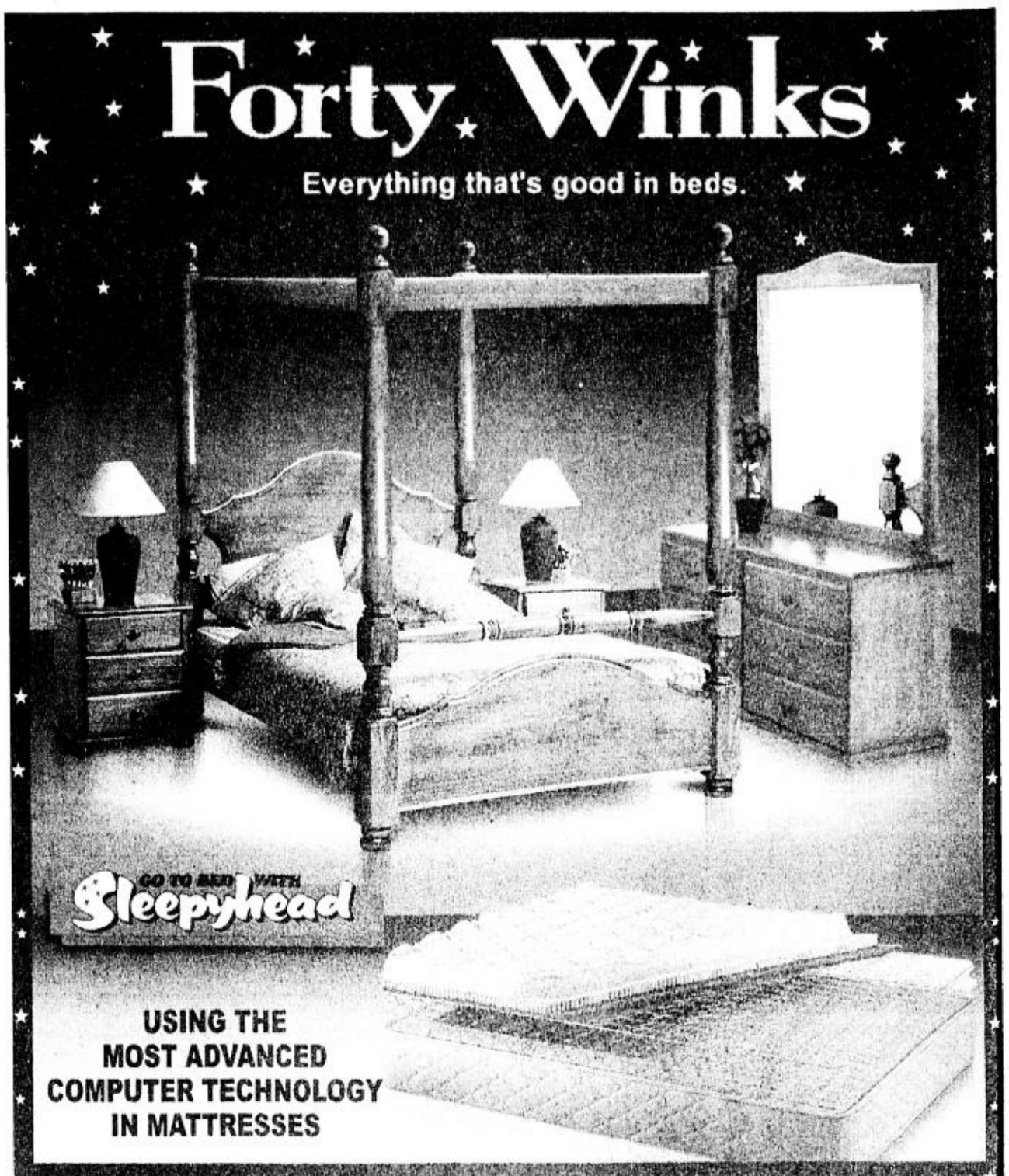

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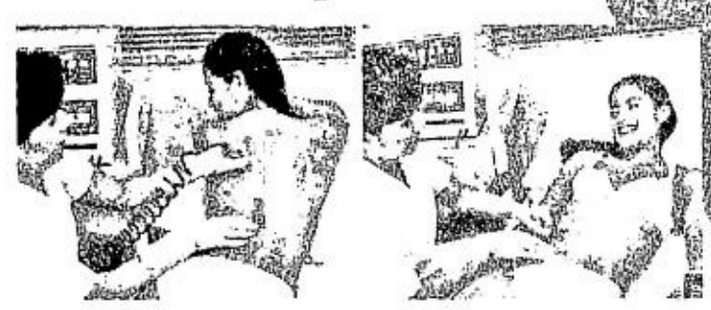
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GMA orders takeover of lands for CARP

SAYING political will was needed to implement land reform and poverty eradication, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered more forced takeovers of private lands for redistribution to farmers.

At the 39th anniversary of the Land Bank of the Philippines, which finances land redistribution, Ms Macapagal said "land reform remains to be established" after 15 years.

She said the level of workable lands for distribution has declined.

She attributed this to "formidable issues" involved in land acquisition and distribution, strong resistance from landowners, limited government resources and questions over rightful beneficiaries.

She pointed out that of the 250,000 hectares distributed last year, 18,000 hectares were distributed through compulsory acquisition.

This was the highest level of compulsory acquisition since the start of land reform in 1987, the President said.

"This is an affirmation of political will to distribute contentious lands under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program of President Aquino," she said.

"I told (LandBank president) Gary (Teves) we should increase compulsory acquisition.

"Let's use the expropriation law. Let's not just wait for voluntary offers of sale," she said.

Under the expropriation law, property owners are compensated for land needed for priority projects, such as infrastructure. But critics have complained that government compensation is usually late in coming and doled out in tranches. ***With an AFP report***

Bong Revilla's security chief shot dead in Cavite

By TJ Burgonio

AUTHORITIES have launched a hunt for a former policeman who allegedly shot to death the chief security aide of Commissioner Ramon "Bong" Revilla of the Video Regulatory Board.

Alberto Bautista, 58, who was also Revilla's cousin, was allegedly shot by Mario Reyes, a former policeman of Imus town, at the Sunnydale Garden Subdivision in Barangay Bucandala, Imus at around 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Bautista died on the spot from multiple gunshot wounds.

The incident reportedly followed a drinking spree involving Bautista, Reyes and several others.

Reyes allegedly shot Bautista as the latter was about to get into his Honda Accord following the drinking spree. Reyes had reportedly followed Bautista from the gathering and then shot him.

VRB chair Bong Revilla

Reyes fled aboard the victim's car, which was found abandoned in nearby Silvertown Subdivision.

Investigators were puzzled by the killing. Witnesses said there had been no untoward incident between Bautista and Reyes while they were drinking.

A witness, Rolly Buenavista, a heavy equipment operator, said Bautista was with his friends, including the assailant, as he was about to enter his car.

Suddenly, without a word, Reyes shot Bautista, Buenavista, a heavy equipment operator, said in his statement to the Cavite Provincial Intelligence and Investigation Unit in Imus.

Buenavista said he was a few meters away from the group when the incident happened. He said Reyes then drove away in the victim's dark green Accord.

Cavite Board Member Edwin Bautista, the brother of Bong Revilla, said the case must be investigated thoroughly.

"*Malalim ang pangyayari*. (This is deep.) We want justice for Albert," he told the INQUIRER.

Bautista, who is also known as Strike Revilla, said in a TV interview he could think of no reason anyone would want to kill their cousin.

He said their cousin had been ready to give his life for the Revilla family.

VRB chair Bong Revilla was in Davao when the killing happened.

Revilla, who was appointed to his post recently by President Macapagal-Arroyo, has been at the forefront of an intense campaign against video pirates.

He acknowledged in recent interviews that he had received death threats because of the campaign.

This early, however, it could not be ascertained if his cousin's killing might be connected to his campaign.

The victim was the nephew of Sen. Ramon Revilla, father of Bong and Strike. ***With Roger Medina, Contributor***

Was President fed wrong info in Sona?

WAS THE President the victim of more misinformation in her recent State of the Nation Address?

President Macapagal-Arroyo had cited in her Sona the case of multinational Kimberly-Clark Corp. as an example of how corruption in the judiciary was driving away foreign investors.

The President had said Kimberly-Clark, which manufactures personal care products, had moved its regional headquarters to Thailand after a public prosecutor filed a case against the firm even after the complainant had executed an affidavit of desistance.

Ms Macapagal cited the same case in media interviews days after her July 22 Sona.

Yesterday, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye denied in an official Malacañang statement that Kimberly-Clark had pulled out of the country or was in the process of doing so.

The statement said Kimberly-Clark vice president and legal counsel Thomas Brown Jr. had assured Bunye during a courtesy call of the firm's continued interest in staying in the country.

Brown, according to the statement, had blamed the media for reporting that Kimberly-Clark was leaving the Philippines.

"The reports were inaccurate, Brown said.

In his regular press briefing, Bunye was at a loss when asked if the President's statement about Kimberly-Clark was another "bum steer" that had victimized his boss.

"I don't want to go back to the Sona," Bunye said.

Kimberly-Clark set up shop in the Philippines nearly 40 years ago, according to the Malacañang statement. It has offices in Makati and its manufacturing plant is located in San Pedro, Laguna. ***Carlito Pablo***

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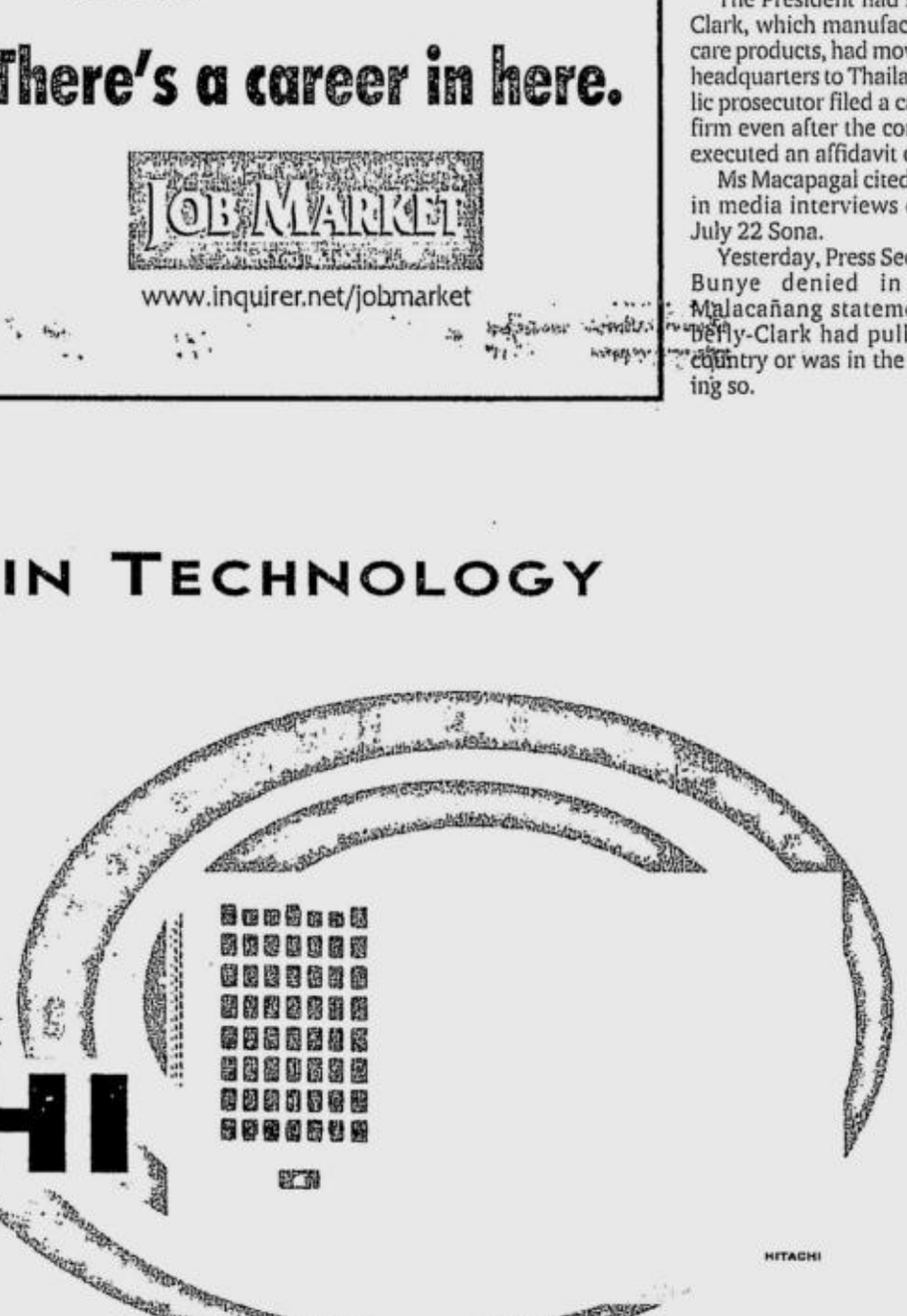

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Lawmaker's death brings 2nd vacancy

A SECOND vacancy has occurred in the House of Representatives with the death of Rep. Napoleon Beratio of Cavite's third district.

Beratio, a second termer, died of pancreatic cancer on Tuesday at the Makati Medical Center.

Rep. Gilbert Remulla of Cavite's second district said he would file a resolution next week seeking a special election to pick Beratio's replacement.

He said the law allows the holding of a special election to fill up a vacancy occurring at least 18 months before the incumbent's term expires.

He said 23 months are left of Beratio's term.

The House had earlier declared a vacancy in the first district of Zamboanga del Norte after Romeo Jalosjos was finally dropped from the roster of members.

Jalosjos was expelled following his conviction for the rape of an 11-year old girl.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. yesterday led the necrological rites for Beratio in the House session hall.

Remulla said Beratio was one of the longest allies of his father, former Cavite Gov. Johnny Remulla.

The young Remulla, a first-termer, described Beratio as one of the best of Cavite mayors.

Prior to his election in the House, Beratio was mayor of Magallanes for nearly two decades.

"He was feared and loved," Remulla said.

A former House member, Bonifacio Gillego of Sorsogon, died last week. There was no necrological service for Gillego, one of the best-loved among congressmen during his three terms. ***Juliet L. Javellana***

Runaway truck kills 2, hurts 20 in Subic

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Two workers were killed and 20 others were injured yesterday when their truck lost its brakes in a downhill stretch and hit the side of the mountain in the Boton area here.

Police identified those killed as Romeo Landero and Visitacion Sakdalan, both ground maintenance personnel of the Freeport Services Corp, a subsidiary of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Bay Authority.

Witnesses said at least one of those killed was run over by the truck after falling.

Those injured were treated at the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital.

Pyke Torres, SBMA intelligence and investigation officer, said the driver, who was among those injured, tried but failed to shift to a low gear after realizing that the truck had lost its brakes. ***Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon***

Blanca slay witness: Rod showed no emotion

By P. Tubeza

"HE HAD no emotion. He did not care."

This was how Elena de la Paz, longtime aide of murdered actress Nida Blanca, described principal suspect Rod Strunk's demeanor hours before the actress' body was found on Nov. 7 last year.

Strunk was Blanca's husband of over 20 years.

De la Paz went to the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday to give a sworn statement in the Blanca case.

She said that contrary to his own claims, Strunk had not seemed overly concerned about the fact that Blanca was missing hours before her body was found in her car at the Atlanta Centre building in San Juan.

Strunk, she said, had gone to the Atlanta Centre to look for Nida but returned and said he did not see Blanca, even though he had peeked inside her abandoned car. The actress' body was found hours later in the back of the car.

The Department of Justice has set Monday as the start of the preliminary investigation of the case.

The NBI yesterday also took the statements of TV reporters Connie Sison, Mariz Umali and Karen Davila on the interviews they made with confessed killer Philip Medel Jr., who later recanted his confession.

NBI agents also talked to broadcast journalist Jessica Soho.

De la Paz said the Strunk-Blanca marriage had been on the rocks since 1996.

Blanca--Dorothy Jones in real life--reportedly sold a property in San Mateo, Rizal to buy a house in California for her daughter.

De la Paz said Strunk also wanted him to be named an owner of the house but Blanca refused.

The actress also allegedly complained about Strunk's uncontrolled spending. The American was dependent on Blanca for his financial needs, De la Paz said.

Robberies, smuggling top traders' problems

THE RISING incidence of store robberies and the rampant smuggling of used appliances and clothing have exacerbated the plight of local retailers who are finding it hard to cope with falling sales, thinning margins and tightened competition from foreign retailers.

Philippine Retailers Association chairman emeritus Samie Lim said there has been a serious breakdown in law and order that is causing the retail industry to be facing one of its bleakest periods.

Lim said the recent spate of robberies of retail establishments like restaurants, drug stores and gasoline stations showed up the government's inability to ensure the people's security, affecting staff morale and store sales.

"We (retailers) cannot afford to spend more for our security. We believe it is only just that the government assures our security because that is what we pay taxes for. If our security cannot be guaranteed, most retailers would have to close shop," he said.

Lim also bewailed the proliferation of used electronics, appliances and clothes from abroad that are driving Filipino manufacturers and retailers out of business. ***Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***

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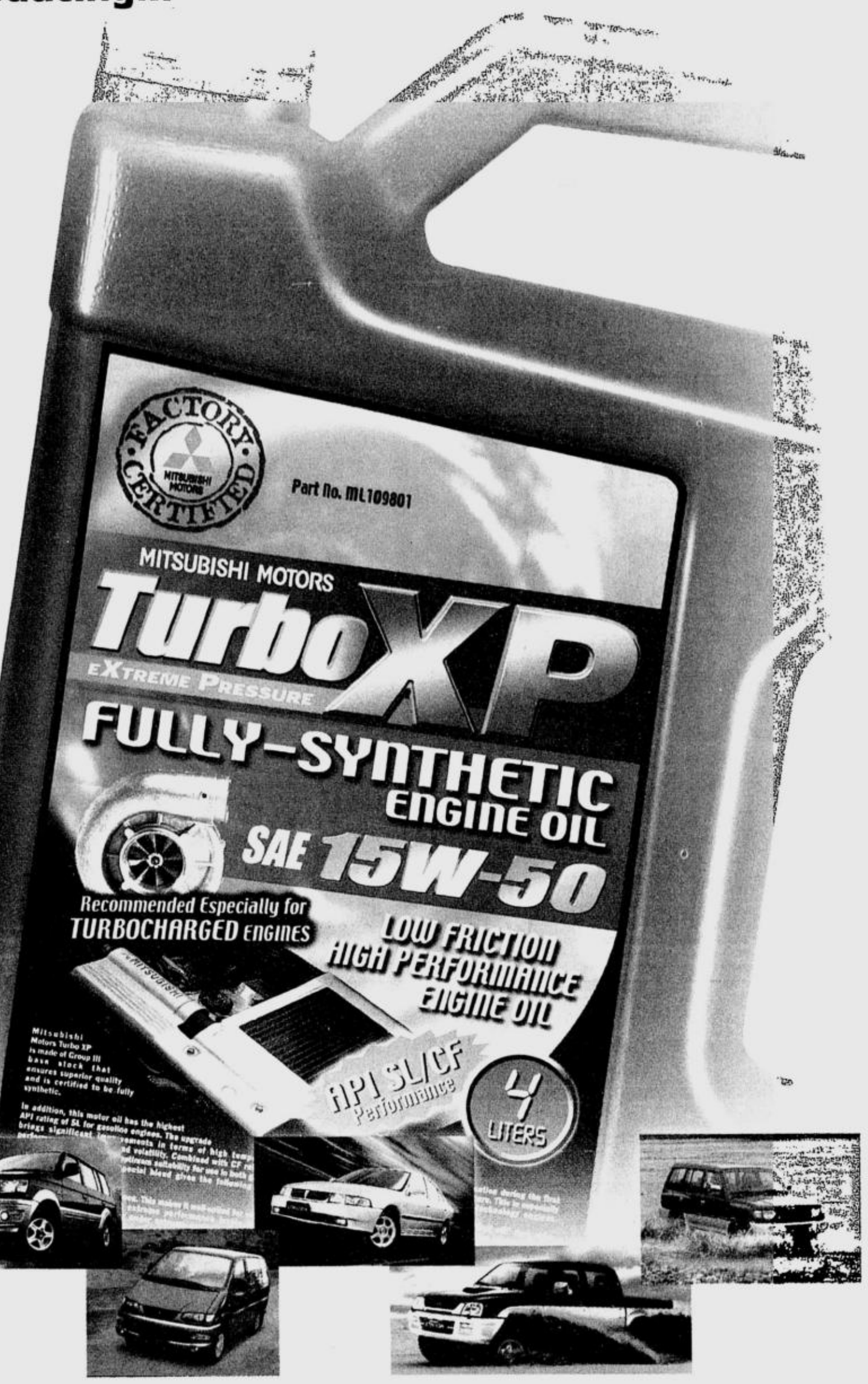

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Acsa's problem not important to Gloria

From page A1

gation headquarters on Aug. 2. Ms Macapagal was then visiting the NBI in the course of her current practice of personally presenting crime suspects to the public through the media.

The President offered no apology to Ramirez in her speech yesterday despite the earlier call of various sectors, including lawmakers, for her to do so in view of the expressed distress of the cashier and her family.

Instead, she promised "justice and fair play" in the continuing investigation of the scam.

Neither did the President clear Ramirez despite statements from the LBP that the cashier's memorandum on questionable transactions in the bank had led to the discovery of the tax diversion scam. She merely reiterated her earlier directive to the NBI "to determine once and for all whether (Ramirez) is culpable for violations of the anti-money laundering law."

"If she is culpable, I order the NBI to file charges immediately. And if she is innocent, I order the NBI to immediately clear her as well," Ms Macapagal said.

She added: "We are determined to get at the root of this tax diversion case, which involves three related felonies: plunder, because so far what we have found are diverted tax payments of P200 million and still counting, conspiracy for tax evasion, and money laundering."

In an interview at the Palace, Landbank president Gary Teves confirmed that it was Ramirez who "helped us in the discovery" of the tax scam.

Teves said it was understandable that Ramirez felt bad at being presented at the NBI as a suspect rather than as a star witness.

"Maybe they should say something about it," he said of NBI officials. "If they had not presented her, there would have been no problem."

Teves also said it might be possible that the NBI misunderstood Ramirez's role in the discovery of the scam, leading its officials to initially think that she was among the suspects.

"If that is an oversight (on the part of the LBP), I'm willing to say I'm sorry," he said.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco has maintained that the bureau did not need to apologize to Ramirez because she was not presented as a suspect.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday that Ramirez herself "acknowledged that neither Director Wycoco nor the President has tagged her as a suspect."

"So I believe that in this case, no violation of procedure has taken place," he said.

On Wednesday, Bunye said Malacañang would seek the opinion of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez on the matter of whether an apology should be issued.

In an interview yesterday in Malacañang, Perez noted that Ramirez was identified by San Juan as one of his confederates in the scam.

"Whether she is a suspect or not is a matter of interpretation because she is under investigation (because of) the fact that she was pointed out by the manager (San Juan)," Perez said.

"If she is indeed the whistle-blower, then it's possible that San Juan has an axe to grind (against her)," Perez added. ***With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan***

Wycoco a liar, says lawyer

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE WAR of words between the National Bureau of Investigation and the camp of Landbank cashier Acsa Ramirez heated up yesterday after her lawyer called the NBI director "a liar."

Lawyer Virginia Suarez-Pinlac said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco lied when he denied his men had apologized privately to Ramirez.

"We can see how much of a liar he is. It is easy for me to prove my point because there were many witnesses. I can quote the agents who told my client: 'On behalf of the NBI, we apologize,'" said Pinlac in an interview over dzBB radio.

Ramirez said NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes chief Elfren Meneses and other NBI agents apologized to her at the Landbank main office in Manila on Monday.

"They (agents) admitted to it. But I can understand (their denial) because of their big blunder," Pinlac said.

Wycoco said he had talked to his men and they denied apologizing to Ramirez "in private or in public."

But it looks like the NBI is set on pinning Ramirez, not for being a member of the tax diversion syndicate, but for her failure to report to the Anti-Money Laundering Council several transactions worth "P4 million and above" as the Landbank Binangonan branch's cashier.

Wycoco said several transactions, "some worth 4 or 5 million plus," happened after she took over as cashier in April.

He said the transactions were not reported to the AMLC as required by law.

'Look who's talking'

From page A1

Mariquit Soriano, 51, retorted in reaction to a statement by her former employers, Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc. (Digitel) chief operating officer Robert Johnson Go and former executive Eric Severino, whom she had accused of acts of lasciviousness and sexual harassment.

"I'm surprised by their claim that I'm too old to be sexually harassed. Mr. Go is old himself. In fact, he's too old to still be doing these things (sexual harassment)," Soriano told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The former director of Digitel's market and communications department filed separate cases against Go, who is a brother of tycoon John Gokongwei, and Severino in the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) and the Quezon City prosecutor's office. She's suing for a P25-million claim in damages before the NLRC for illegal dismissal.

In separate counter-affidavits, Go and Severino have denied her allegations and accused her of suffering from narcissism and borderline personality disorder.

Soriano admitted that the psychological evaluation report cited by her alleged harassers was "a fair assessment of my condition when the examination was taken."

"I was at my lowest at that time. I was suffering from a major depression," she said.

The psychological testing, which was recommended by her counsel, was done in November, 2000, five months after she lost her job and while she was being treated for depression, according to Soriano.

But she stressed that she was not narcissistic in the sense that she was obsessed with her own physical appearance.

"I kept asking my psychiatrist then: 'I performed well for the company. Why did they do this to me? *Bakit nila ako binaboy?*' (Why was I treated shabbily?) But I never asked anyone if I was pretty or something like that," she explained.

Not after money

Soriano also belied Severino's allegation that she was only after money. She related that she initially went to a prominent woman lawyer to seek her help in filing a case against Go and Severino, but she was disappointed.

"I was really hoping that being a prominent lawyer that she was, she would find my case a worthy woman's cause. But it turned out that she wanted to pursue only the civil case, not the criminal one," Soriano said.

"Now, if I was only after the money, I shouldn't have filed the criminal case anymore. I should have just pursued the labor case in the NLRC," she added.

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Soriano said that it took two years before she was able to file the case because "I was hoping Go and Severino would stop harassing me and I could continue on the job I needed so badly."

She disclosed that after only one year with Digitel, she got a salary raise from P70,000 to P80,000.

This came after Severino, who had claimed that she was "not a model employee," gave her a performance rating of 92 percent.

"No woman in my situation, a single mother of 4, would give up and ignore the enticement of a promotion if there was a way to endure Go's and Severino's harassment. Or, if Go really found me an undesirable 49-year-old grandmother and stopped his predatory advances as he now claims," she said.

Soriano further maintained that the case was not "another demolition job" against the Gokongweis, as Go's nephew, Lance Gokongwei, had described it.

The Gokongwei family is in a corporate struggle for control of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. She said she has been on her case since she resigned two years ago but that the authorities took time to investigate.

"This is totally irrelevant to their struggle. I have absolutely nothing to do with their ambition to control PLDT," Soriano said.

Yearlong NBI probe

She also came to the defense of the National Bureau of Investigation, which Go and Severino had accused of partiality.

"The truth is it took the NBI over a year to endorse the case to the Quezon City prosecutor because of dilatory tactics of their lawyers who used every legal trick to delay the investigation," Soriano said.

She said that a senator had knowledge of her case as early as June 2000, when she resigned from Digitel.

Now, she has nowhere near to go for employment.

Soriano said that she had been looking for a job after she quit Digitel but that she had found it difficult to land one.

She had earlier said that she realized how the vast business stakes of the Gokongweis would limit the opportunities available to her especially after she came out in public.

Soriano said she had tried to cover up the real reason for her leaving a plum post in Digitel to avoid controversy.

She said that she would tell her interviewers, when applying for a job, that she left because of promises that were broken.

"I've been jobless for two years, and it has not been easy for my family," Soriano said in a phone interview yesterday.

"I've been an employee all my life, and it (sexual abuse) has never happened to me until, ironically, I was a grandmother," she said.

Soriano ruled out a settlement with Go and Severino, who has since left Digitel and is now with Oracle Systems Inc., saying that, "their chance has passed."

'Simple extortion'

"THIS case is plain and simple extortion. Nonetheless, since it is already submitted for resolution, we are constrained not to give any more statement other than the ones provided in the counter-affidavits of our clients which we submitted already, lest we be declared in contempt. We urge media to respect the proceedings in court and the rights of the parties as well. On our part, appropriate counter charges are now being prepared for filing in court to protect the rights of our clients."

Atty. Ma. Victoria Beltran
Legal counsel

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 9, 2002
18th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Nh 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7
Gospel: Mt 16:24-28

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you want to follow me, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me. For whoever chooses to save his life will lose it, but the one who loses his life for my sake will find it. What will one gain by winning the whole world if he destroys himself? There is nothing you can give to recover your own self.

Know that the Son of Man will come in the Glory of his Father with the holy angels, and he will reward each one according to his deeds. Truly, I tell you, there are some here who will not die before they see the Son of Man coming as king."

Commentary

Our own "ego" is the oldest, biggest, heaviest and most radical obstacle to our life of freedom, gentle humanity and durable happiness. Though it seems a contradiction, our "ego" with all its masks and defenses is our most serious enemy. Following Jesus, taking any cross will be easy if first we "renounce ourselves." Jesus doesn't ask us to renounce any aspect of our humanity, but to break free from the protective shield that prevents us from walking or even breathing. When we focus in "having" possessions, name, titles or whatever and not focus on "being," we stop any possible growth. It is funny, we spend the first forty years of our life building up a strong ego, just to realize that the way to happiness and freedom is to deny ourselves, to minimize the ego.

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

CIVIL LAW (LAND TITLES AND DEEDS)—Action for reconveyance— An action based on implied or constructed trust prescribes in 10 years from the time of its creation or upon the alleged fraudulent registration of the property. Petitioner's action in the court below was basically one of reconveyance. It was filed 61 years after the title was issued and 44 years after its reconstitution. The failure of petitioner and his father to assert ownership of the land for over 60 years during which the respondent was in possession is simply contrary to their claim of ownership. Petitioner and his father's long inaction or passivity in asserting their rights over disputed property will preclude them from recovering the same. Neither petitioner nor his father held a valid title over the land. There was no showing that petitioner's father owned the land at the time of his demise so as to bequeath the same to petitioner as his sole heir. The rule is firmly settled that an action for reconveyance based on fraud must be filed within 10 years from discovery of the fraud which as to titled lands referred to the registration of the title with the register of deeds. An action for reconveyance is a legal remedy granted to a landowner whose property has been wrongfully or erroneously registered in another's name, but then the action must be filed within 10 years from the issuance of the title since such issuance operates as a constructive notice. In addition, the action is barred by laches because of the long delay before the filing of the case. [Citations omitted.] *[En Banc,* Justice Pardo, Alonso v. Cebu Country Club, Inc., G. R. No. 130876, January 31, 2002] Digest by R. B. Vera

Joma's threat perils release of prisoners

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice said yesterday it would block the release of 47 political prisoners if exiled Communist leader Jose Ma. Sison refuses to recall his order to the New People's Army to renew its attacks on the government.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said in an interview the impending release of the political detainees under a Presidential pardon has been jeopardized by Sison's order, which he gave on Aug. 6.

Sison issued the order in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of an "all-out war" against communist guerillas.

Perez said, "If Joma Sison (wants) to sow chaos (by) bombing National Power Corp. power (plants)," then the communist guerillas should not expect their arrested comrades to be released soon.

The political detainees, all from Southern Luzon, had been up for release since March this year.

Perez said, "The (processing of their release) can be stopped," after Sison ordered the NPA's 128 guerilla fronts to "go into new kinds of special operations such as destroying electrical towers and lines like during the final years of (Ferdinand) Marcos."

"I don't have the numbers," Perez said, "But about 50 prisoners more or less" were supposed to be released early this year.

Perez said the release of the political prisoners was part "of confidence buildup" in the stalled peace talks between the government and the communist guerillas.

Perez said there had been no order from President Macapagal-Arroyo to delay the release, even though he admitted she had the final say on the matter.

"We didn't receive any notice to stop the (processing). But all of this will be submitted to the President," Perez said.

Peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF), the umbrella group that includes the Communist Party of the Philippines, have been stalled since the assassination allegedly by the NPA of Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo in June last year.

Aguinaldo was a former Constabulary colonel accused by human rights groups of torture and summary executions.

On March 17, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines disclosed that 47 political detainees in Southern Luzon were being considered for release by the Department of Justice.

The TFDP said the 47 included Nancy Cabug and Gregorio Alemania, who were arrested in November 2000. Cabug is now out on bail..

The TFDP identified the other detainees as Emma Montoya Rait and Ronnie Pahilagot, who were nabbed in October 1999 together with Virgilio Mane, Walter Ortega and Rustico Mijares.

The five are now detained at the Romblon provincial jail.

US envoy hits 'Cold War' thinking of Pinoys

US AMBASSADOR Francis Ricciardone yesterday assured both supporters and detractors of the American military presence in the country that Washington had no plans of building bases in the Philippines.

"It surprises me a little that some people in this country still have the Cold War mentality of 10 years ago. Despite 10 years where there have been no bases here, they still imagine that we are going to surprise them and build American bases on the ground again. I can say it's not going to happen," Ricciardone said.

Ricciardone was reacting to a question posed at a local business forum. The questioner had said the US did not need actual land bases but could rely on "absent, floating or flying garrisons, such as the facilities built by the US in Sarangani province years ago."

"I am not a Pentagon expert, but I can tell you with great assurance, even as a lay person, that we are not interested in bases in the Philippines," Ricciardone said.

He said recent advances in military technology did not require bases and the threats facing the US today do not come from the classical land armies that the bases had been designed for.

"The bases were nice to look at in photographs but those days are over," he said.

Ricciardone said the US government was "delighted" to be training under the Visiting Forces Agreement, because it learns from the war exercises and the Filipino soldiers come out stronger.

He said the US would continue to hold war exercises as long as it would serve Philippine interests. He said the US would immediately withdraw its forces if the Philippine government decided it did not need American training anymore.

"There can be no coercion among allies. We will not force you," he said. ***Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***

R. Gagui; 55

ROMY Gagui, Marina director for Region IV, died on Aug. 6 in Batangas City. He was 55.

He is survived by his wife Priscilla (Iya) and son Mambie. His body lies in the Silang residence in Ilijan City. It will be transferred on Aug. 9 to the Basilica Immaculada Concepcion in Batangas City. He will be laid to rest on Aug. 14 at the Eternal Memorial Park in Batangas City.

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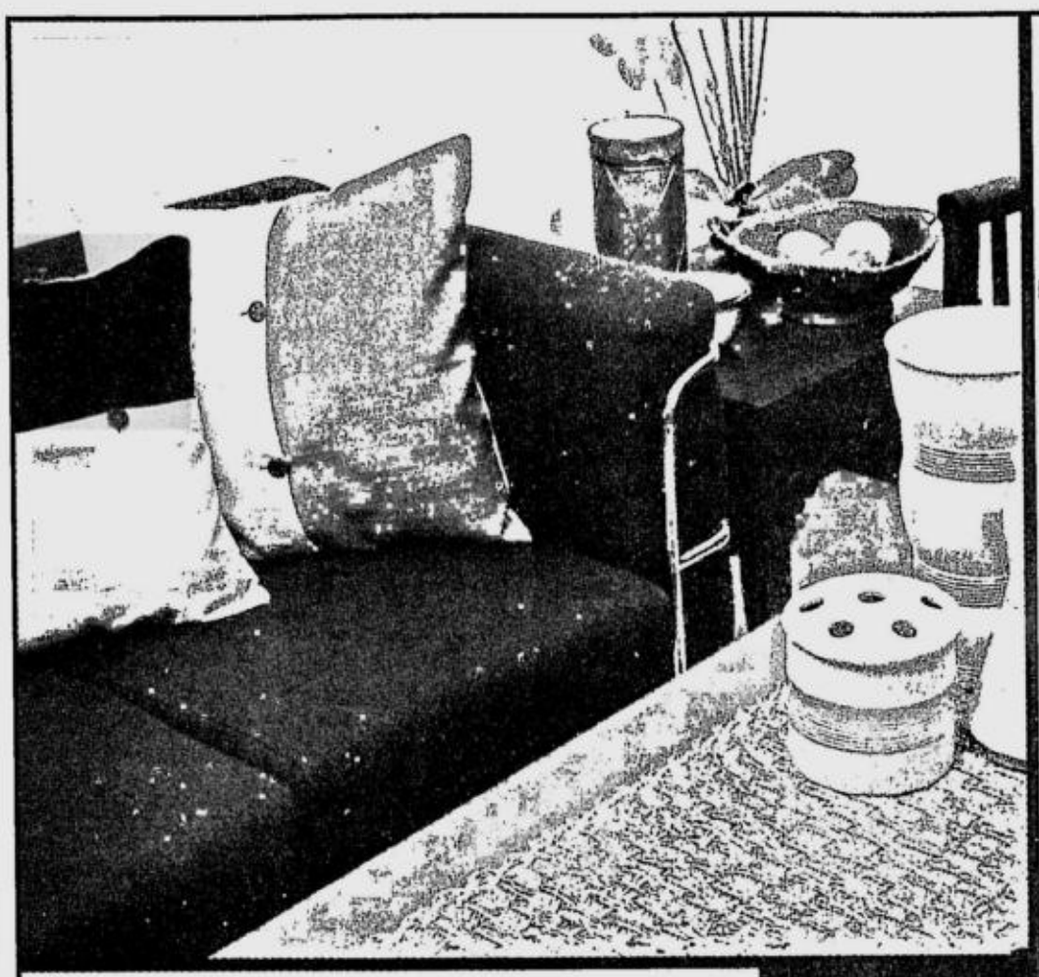

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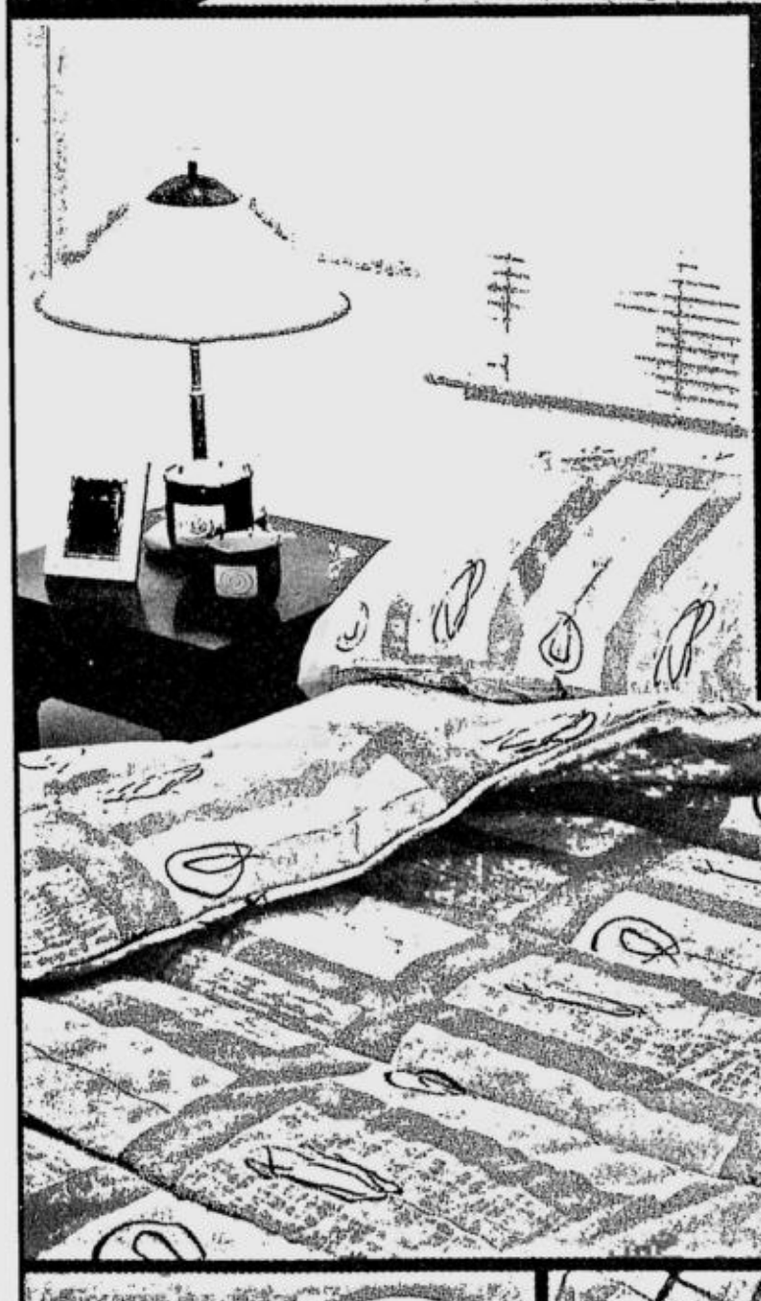

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Barbaric

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has described the partnership between the police and the citizenry as "the strongest defense we have against criminality." True, if it exists in the first place. But any police official knows that citizens' cooperation is the weakest link in the chain of law enforcement, starting with crime solution to prosecution up to the conviction of wrongdoers.

EDITORIAL And it could only have been weakened some more by the way Ms Macapagal and the National Bureau of Investigation treated Acsa Ramirez, the cashier of the Land Bank of the Philippines branch in Binangonan, Rizal.

It was Acsa Ramirez who discovered that P203 million in tax payments had been diverted to fictitious private accounts in their branch. She reported her discovery to higher LandBank officials. An investigation showed that the branch manager, Artemio San Juan, was a key player in the fraud. San Juan was arrested and presented to the media Thursday. Ramirez was invited for an "interview" Friday by the NBI.

That afternoon, Ms Macapagal came calling at the NBI headquarters. Ramirez's interview was interrupted and she was told to go where the President was meeting the media. She thought she was going to get a well-deserved recognition for her courageous deed, and from the President no less. Instead Ms Macapagal linked her to the scam. Ramirez blacked out mentally and then burst into tears.

Malacanang and the NBI are now denying that the President ever implicated Ramirez in the tax fraud. NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco has said that the President "did not categorically announce whether Ramirez was a suspect or not."

She didn't have to. To the public that was watching television, Ramirez was a suspect. Even Ms Macapagal seemed to think so. Otherwise, why did she mention Ramirez's name in the same breath as San Juan's?

And why was Ramirez summoned to the presentation in the first place? Surely she wasn't there as a stage prop? Since the President declared war against crime and terrorism, she has never missed the opportunity to be seen with the day's prize catch of killers, kidnappers, robbers and swindlers. She has been caught by TV cameras giving away rewards to masked informers but she has never been photographed presenting a witness.

The least Ms Macapagal and Wycoco could have done after realizing their mistake was to apologize for subjecting Ramirez to so much public humiliation. But to this day, they arrogantly refuse to do so, with Wycoco saying they did nothing wrong. Worse, the order is out to get Ramirez on charges of violating the anti-money laundering law for routinely signing a listing of checks received by the bank that included a spurious P26-billion check deposit.

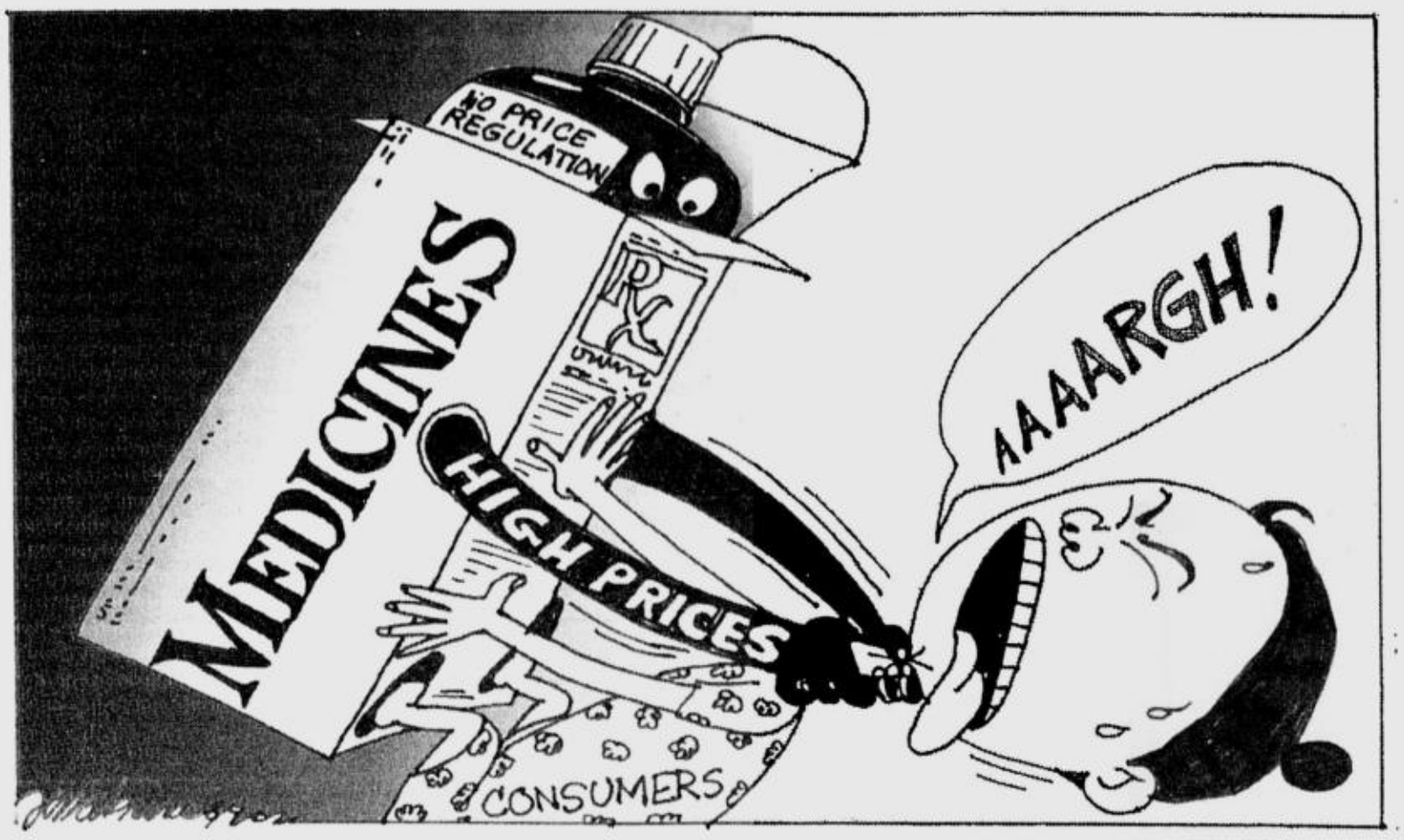
Is this the way to treat a civic-spirited citizen who reported a serious crime? If it is, then Ms Macapagal might as well abandon her war against crime. It will just be a waste of time, effort and resources, since it can never succeed without the help of the citizenry.

Amidst this sorry spectacle of where the country's top law enforces were caught shooting their mouths off and refusing to acknowledge the pain they have caused to an innocent witness, a congressman has filed a bill outlawing the naming or presentation in public as suspects of "persons who are wrongfully accused" unless formal charges have been filed in court.

But there's already a law that prohibits this practice of parading suspects, and it is called the Constitution. The fundamental law says that every man accused of any crime must be presumed innocent until proven guilty and mandates that due process be given to the accused.

Those grand presentations of suspects to the media and the public violate those basic human rights. They are no better than the spray-painting campaign of former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim against drug pushers and dealers; indeed, they are worse because it is not just the neighborbood that knows but the entire nation. What they do is convict mere suspects without trial and punish them with public humiliation. Few people make a distinction between suspects and convicts. To most people, anyone accused of a crime, especially if it is the President making the accusation and on television yet, is already guilty as charged. And there is no appeal for such a conviction.

It is a crude and barbaric system of dispensing justice. But the administration sees nothing wrong with it.



The gov't that can't do anything right

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo made a bad thing worse by refusing to admit that she and NBI Chief Reynaldo Wycoco-made a mistake in implying that LandBank cashier Acsa Ramirez was involved in the diversion of P203 million in taxes. Instead, they are suggesting that Acsa may have committed a crime under the Anti-Money Laundering Law by not reporting the unusually large amounts of deposits in the LandBank branch in Binangonan.

But that's exactly what she did, didn't she, report the huge deposits to her superiors. That was how they discovered the scam in the first place. Wycoco,who is the most guilty here since it was he who obviously gave the erroneous information to the President, split hairs by saying that Acsa did not give the information to the NBI but to her superiors. Well, to who else? And Justice Secretary Hernando Perez made it worse by saying that Acsa may be a suspect after all, just so the President won't have to apologize. What's wrong with apologizing if you made a mistake? To err is human, to forgive divine. That is the decent thing to do, apologize for a mistake.

But obviously the President doesn't want to admit that she made still another mistake because it is becoming embarrassing. After one mistake after another, her administration is becoming known as "the government that cannot do anything right."

Pride is the first of the cardinal sins. It caused the downfall of the angels, the foremost among them being Lucifer himself. That's what this administration has too much of. Refusal to admit a mistake is the height of arrogance and conceit. What this administration needs is humility. A little humility never hurt anybody. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

Look at the effect of the Acsa boo-boo on other employees. In her speeches, President Macapagal always asks citizens to help stop crime and root out corruption by speaking out. But after what happened to Acsa, they will now be afraid to blow the whistle on suspected wrongdoings. They may end up as suspects themselves like Acsa.

Poor Acsa, she thought she would be hailed like Clarissa Ocampo, Chavit Singson and other whistle-blowers against Erap. She got the shock of her life by ending up as a suspect. Wycoco was less than forthright with her when he invited her to the press conference without telling her exactly what her part would be in the media hype: that she would be a fall guy.

And that, I think, is the original sin. In an attempt to project in media an anti-crime campaign, Malacañang Palace has been transformed into another city jail with suspected criminals tramping through its hallowed halls regularly. In the first place, I think exposing mere suspects to public ridicule is a violation of their human rights. What does the Commission on Human Rights say to that?

Whoever is the PR adviser who sold that gimmick to the President should be given the heave-ho. The termites that are eating up the foundations of her "strong republic" can be found not only in civic society. They're right there in Malacañang itself. They're the ones giving her the wrong advice and the wrong information. Three or four "kuryentes" in a few weeks can't be mere coincidence. Somebody must be sabotaging her administration. Either that or her subordinates are so incompetent they can't do anything right.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos can't escape blame, either. He signed so many contracts with Independent Power Producers that electricity is overloading Malacañang circuits. So *madalas makuryente ang Presidente*.

* * *

The government faces a very big budget deficit because its two premier tax collecting arms, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs, cannot meet their collection targets. Worse, the taxes already collected are being stolen by syndicates among whose members are personnel of the BIR and the BOC themselves.

A survey showed that poor workers are paying more taxes than millionaires (see Inquirer, 8/5/02). The biggest tax cheats are those who can afford to pay; those who can least afford it have no escape from the tax man-taxes are already being deducted from their salaries at source. Worse, foreign nationals working here and being paid millions of Philippine pesos monthly, are not paying income taxes to the Philippine government. Yet Philippine laws are very clear that residents and non-resident aliens working here are required to pay income taxes to the Philippine government. (A resident alien is an individual who resides within the Philippines but who is not a Filipino citizen. A non-resident alien is an individual whose permanent residence is not within the Philippines and is not a Filipino citizen.)

In our June 19 column, we promised to give to the BIR the names of foreigners who are violating Philippine laws and the corporations they work for. Here is the fist batch.

The bureau of immigration sent this certified memorandum prepared by Regildo O. Robles, secretary, and noted by Cris M. Villalobos, executive assistant:

"This is to certify that based on our records, there is no application for Special Work Permit (SWP) or Probationary Work Permit (PWP) filed, issued or ponding in favor of Yves Borles, Chierry Kreig, Marc Beatrix, Stuart Tilley, Philippe Langlet, Chierry Schock, Nathalie Lamy, Lisette Provencher, Bertrand Dubrous, Hugo Bourgeois, Jacques Chevalier and Pham Van Tin, all French nationals, before this office."

They are employees of ONDEO, French company partner of Benpres in Maynilad Water Corp. Each of them is paid about P1 million a month.

A real crime

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MY heart goes out to Acsa Ramirez, the bank cashier who blew the whistle on a P203 million tax diversion scam and ended up being presented as a suspect. Her tearful face on our front page last Wednesday needs no further commentary. It is the bitterest indictment of those who brought her to that pass.

That happened because of two things.

One is the ineptitude of the NBI, the same NBI that to this day insists on the word of a deranged police asset and inveterate liar named Philip Medel that Rod Strunk killed his wife, Nida Blanca, in order to impoverish himself. This wasn't the first time NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco in particular goofed, and goofed big. A couple of weeks ago, while the president was in Sarangani, he had her reporting that Pentagon gang leader Faisal Marohombsar had been captured. As it turned out, the fellow remained free as a bird. Based on Wycoco's feeds also, the president reported in Sarangani that Commander Tropical of the bandit group, Abu Sofia, had been killed. As it turned out, he was as alive as GMA and Wycoco.

But more importantly that happened because of the president's eagerness to show the world she has made inroads in the war against crime a couple of weeks after she announced it as her flagship project. A high-profile campaign guaranteed to keep her in the public eye. A war against crime offers photo ops, a war against poverty does not. GMA has been in the news lately variously posing before the cameras while a slain drug dealer lies slumped on the driver's seat in the background, counting fake dollars that have been seized by government agents from counterfeiters, holding press conferences about the capture of bandits with exotic names. "Elliott Ness, without the suspenders" as someone told me. "Feeling so, anyway."

My reaction to this even before the Ramirez fiasco has been to wonder why, if it's so easy to crush bandit groups, we had to import hundreds of American troops to deal with the Abu Sayyaf. And why we need another round of them in October to deal with the same group.

It can't seem to disappear. The facile answer of course is that the Abu Sayyaf is not a bandit group but a terrorist one, and a terrorist group is harder to crush than a bandit one. But that overlooks the fact that terrorists, like the ones that drove hijacked planes into the Trade Center and blew themselves up in Israel, normally shout death to their enemies en route to annihilating themselves. The Abu Sayyaf merely likes to say, "We accept only dollars," to the families of their foreign hostages en route to planning their retirement in the Bahamas. Of course the Abu Sayyaf beheaded some of their victims. But if atrocity were the sole criterion for being a terrorist, the PNP would qualify as the biggest terrorist cell of all.

The Ramirez incident raises even more questions about whether GMA means to wage an honest-to-goodness all-out war against criminals or merely an honest-to-goodness all-out campaign against survey findings that consistently rank her as no better than third in people's preferences. The recklessness she and her NBI chief showed with Ramirez is breathtaking. I myself do not particularly care that she and Wycoco got duped into believing a couple of bandit chieftains with exotic names have ceased to be a menace to society. But I do care and she and Wycoco have combined to parade before the world as a common criminal the one person who stepped out at great risk to herself and her family to damn wrongdoing. That is raw iniquity.

I do not know how highly they value a good name. But I know Acsa Ramirez prizes it like life itself. I know that from the fact that she did come out to expose the scam in the Binangonan branch of Landbank. She it was who tipped Landbank president, Margarito Teves, about it. She it was who agreed to make her declaration public before the NBI. What it took to do it, I can only guess. Ramirez is a wife and mother, and her first instinct must be to protect her family. She is just a cashier in a bank whose word will be pitted against those of the powerful men and women she has indicted. The easiest course would have been to feign ignorance. No one would have blamed her if she did. But she did not. She did the right thing, which is always the hardest thing to do.

She had every reason to think she might be congratulated. But to be trotted out instead as Exhibit A while the cameras clicked, that fate happens only in imaginative Arab curses.

I do have an idea what it means to be put in that spot. I know a couple of people who have been falsely accused before the world. "I couldn't sleep for days," one of them told me. "The neighbors were looking at us in a funny way, the same neighbors we used to invite us to their house. But what really hurt was the way the kids were treated in school. Their dad was an embezzler, the newspapers said so. That was the thing that made me cry in anger. And after I was cleared, who was there to say sorry? Who was there to remove the stigma? Nobody."

What infuriates even more is Wycoco's insistence on his being right all along. He has even threatened to sue Ramirez for suggesting she was made to look like a suspect. Ah, but General, we all saw it, she was. Indeed, he has threatened to investigate Ramirez for possible involvement in the scam, making her a suspect after all. That is no small threat, given, as the Nida Blanca case shows, the NBI's uncanny ability to impute guilt to people without motive. As for GMA, will she find it in her heart to say "Sorry" to a person she has greatly wronged? Ah, too, but it takes a big person to admit a mistake and apologize for it.

Fight crime? That is the real crime.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.net

Presidential spectacle

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is projecting to the public the image that she is in charge in the campaign against organized crime and corruption.

During the past couple of weeks, she has not missed any opportunity to be on the spot when suspected criminal gangs are arrested, a scam is discovered in the leakage of revenue collections or some victims of a disaster are to be comforted.

Normally, the President of this country is the most important news of the day, but President Macapagal has done more than any other President to hog the front page, always before obliging TV and press cameras.

No doubt, she is photogenic but cameras are cruel, if not honest. Now matter how her media handlers try to reinvent her image, the President,when left alone to herself, reveals her true style—impatient with nonsense and to show results, exacting on her subordinates for performance, testy, extremely self-confident and arrogant.

In the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf and criminal gangs, the President has revealed a tough posture and has brushed aside any cosmetic veneer hiding her real self. Now, we are seeing what she really is and the mascara is off. She has revealed herself as a publicity-seeker, using the cameras as the weapon to fight criminal organizations. In doing so, she is no better than a local chief of police or municipal mayor who parades himself before the cameras when they catch a local pickpocket or a collector of a jueteng syndicate.

All the suspects who have been pictured with the President during two weeks of crackdown are relatively small fry. The big fish are still at large. On Aug. 2, she paid a surprise visit to the National Bureau of Investigation where she presented to the press a cashier of the Land Bank of the Philippines as a suspect in a P203 million tax diversion scam. It turned out that the cashier, Acsa Ramirez, was a government asset. She turned out to be the "whistle blower" and despite the gaffe, the authorities, from the President down to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco arrogantly refused to admit they had committed a grievous error of not only being careless with facts but also condemning a suspect before she had been investigated in a boisterous trial by publicity.

The presentation of the Land Bank diversion scam came at a time when the Bureau of Internal Revenue had come under fire for a large collection shortfall and the government's competence in fiscal management had been criticized over the widening deficit.

In the war against crime and corruption, the administration is desperately in a hurry to find culprits and scapegoats—and the small fry suspected in wrong doings serve the purpose. The implication of the exposure of the revenue diversion scam in the Land Bank seems to be that the poor revenue effort of the "crusading" BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez is due to leakage attributed to small-fry bank employes.

President Macapagal lauded Bañez as the man who can not only straighten out the corruption in the BIR but also raise the revenue targets of an euphoric government. She anointed Bañez as the white knight at the BIR even before he could collect a centavo. A year after the first Sona, and despite Bañez' shake-up of senior bureaucrats in the BIR, he continues to be an NPA (non-performing asset) and BIR collection continues to slide.

The accusation of plunder hurled against Bañez is not only unfair but is also groundless. If Bañez, who is an honest man, is to be faulted, it is for incompetence in delivering the revenues. And despite, the poor collection record, the President continues to back him to the hilt. The uncritical support by the President of Bañez is a matter of face for a stubborn President. The President is so cocksure of her judgment and she believes she can't be told anything, that she sticks to her decision, right or wrong.

The failure of Bañez to deliver the revenues is aggravating the widening deficit, which is undermining the confidence of the markets in the ability of the government to manage the economy. Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho is puzzled why reporters are "fixated" on the deficit, when there are other positive aspects of the economy. The explanation for the "fixation" is that the deficit is the key to the ability of government to raise money to finance not only government operations but also its economic expansion programs.

In the campaign against organized crime, the biggest output so far is an overexposed President and TV and press camera footage as the law enforcement dragnet catches "suspects." The President has created phantoms as enemies of her "strong Republic," but when she fights phantoms she is sure to win. But the reality is that she is also building a "phantom" strong Republic while destroying due process through trial by publicity. The president is leading the charge of the light brigade against a phantom enemy and those being crushed are the small fry.

My Shangri-la

HIGH BLOOD

Rudy A. Arizala

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

WHEN I was in Infanta, Quezon, recently as a *balikbayan*, Kuya Poling and Kaka Vacion invited me, my younger brother Dading and sister May to spend the day at their fishpond, about 30 minutes ride by motor boat from Barangay Ungos, Real in Quezon province. With us also was the younger sister of Kaka Vacion, Ate Diden. So, one bright morning, we left Ungos on a frail wooden banca with two bamboo poles as outriggers powered by a diesel engine. The sea was calm and a soft early morning breeze blew and the sky was cloudless, except for a few puffs of snow-white clouds in the distant horizon. Shortly, we reached the fishpond surrounded by towering lush green vegetation of *bakawan* trees (mangrove trees) and tropical climbing plants which grow abundantly in swampy areas.

We camped at a bamboo and nipa hut hanging precariously at the edge of a *bas-eg* (small dike of soil and rocks) overlooking a wide lagoon. Kuya Poling handed my brother and me a fishing rod with bait. "We better catch some fish for lunch," he muttered as he was handing to us the fishing rods. We went fishing while the ladies busied themselves cooking a pot of rice and some vegetables. A fishpond boy went out with a bamboo trap to catch some crabs.

By late midday, we caught about a half-dozen Lapu-lapu while the fishpond boy came with a crab as big as an earthen cooking pot. The ladies cooked *sinigang* and fried some fish while the big crab was simply steamed in boiling water. We had a sumptuous lunch more delicious and tasty than any seafood cooked at a Chinese restaurant in Manila. Aside from the expert cooks we had at the fishpond, the fish and vegetables were freshly cooked. For dessert we had sliced mangoes.

After a heavy lunch we were tempted to take a *siesta* or afternoon nap. So we lay down on the split bamboo and wood floor and within minutes we were all snoring, lulled to dreamland by the gentle lapping of the water at the fishpond dikes and fresh air blowing from the wide lagoon and fishpond. When we woke up, it was *merienda* time but we dispensed with it and preferred to walk around the fishpond through the *bas-eg* or dikes dividing the fishpond into several blocks of water laden with fish and crabs. Kuya Poling and Kaka Vacion are constructing a rest house made of wood and galvanized iron roofing complete with bedrooms, bathrooms, a living room, kitchen and dining room. All the doors and windows would be covered by tiny screen wires to let the fresh air in but not the insects and mosquitoes. The rest house when finished would be at one corner of the fishpond surrounded by a body of water, mangrove and coconut trees. Kuya Poling mentioned that in the early mornings and late evenings one could hear the cries of monkeys darting from tree to tree and their branches at a clump of *bakawan* trees. I could not believe that there were still monkeys around as well as various kind of birds. The fauna and flora of the swampy area are still kept intact. He told me that since they acquired that fishpond, they have prohibited the catching of monkeys, birds or any wild animals in the area. Also no cutting of *bakawan* trees is allowed.

Thus, the fishpond is still virtually a Shangri-la off the coast of Real, Quezon. No dynamite fishing is aloud. I noted that when we left Ungos that morning there were two coast-guard patrol boats at anchor. They chase and apprehend any dynamite fishers in the area and see to it that the coral reefs are not further damaged.

Before sundown and availing of the incoming evening tide, we boarded again our frail wooden motor boat for our trip back home to Infanta via Ungos. From Ungos, we went overland to Infanta.

At the rustic, isolated fishpond amidst the mangrove swamps by the sea, I discovered the "Shangri-la" I have been dreaming of for many years. Not one beyond the "lost horizon" of the Tibetan plateaus and mountains but one by the shore of Infanta next to the Pacific Ocean, located across the forbidding Sierra Madres.

We left the fishpond as the sun was setting behind the mountains with greyish green vegetation silhouetted against the dying sun while small clouds of red, orange and indigo adorned the Western skies. After traveling by boat for several minutes, the fishpond of Kuya Poling and Kaka Vacion receded behind the mangrove swamps and we finally approached the sandy brown shorelines of Ungos port. Houses on stilts made of nipa, wood and bamboo dotted the shorelines like long brown legged herons standing on the water's edge.

As we came near the shore, we heard the last sputters of the motor boat and the frail banca started to glide gracefully on the calm water, its bamboo outriggers kissing gently the sandy beach of Ungos. Time to disembark and say final goodbye to a "Shangri-la" safely tucked under the mangrove trees.

It was, indeed, a delightful day at the fishpond re-energizing our tired bodies and rejuvenating our spirits. Our bodies became attuned again, even for a moment, with the natural pulse and rhythm of nature—with the three elements of life—fire, water and earth. I would not exchange my one-day stay at the fishpond of Kuya Poling and Kaka Vacion with a month-long stay at a 5-star modern hotel in Manila. Staying at the fishpond, a sort of Shagri-la to me, is an opportunity although brief for bonding not only with nature but also with my brother and sister as well as with relatives whom I have not seen for years.

Rudy A. Arizala is a former ambassador, who now lives in Santiago, Chile.

Stories and lessons from 'Nightmare Journeys'

(Excerpts from a talk delivered yesterday at the First Visayas Convention on HIV/AIDS held at the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel with the theme "Strengthening Local Initiatives.")

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EARLY last year, I was asked to join a meeting with Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio, then president of the Philippine Committee of the United Nations Fund for Women (Unifem), and Tony Hidalgo, publisher of Milflores Publishing. They had a proposition for me: Would I like to write a book telling the stories of Filipino women who had been victimized by traffickers?

Ms Panlilio left her family-managed business years ago to pursue an early ambition to be a published writer. She has since published a successful biography of her mother and also contributed to collections of family memoirs and travel essays. No wonder she wanted for her major project during her term the publication of a book that would not only raise money for Unifem but also serve as an advocacy instrument on the issue of sex trafficking.

Even then, I already had more than enough on my plate, but the idea of telling these stories, of giving face, voice and feeling to an issue I cared deeply about, was intriguing. To be honest, I also thought it would be no sweat. Immediately, I thought of my friends and contacts among the many women's groups and non-government organizations working on the issue of trafficking. It would be a simple matter, I thought, to ask them to refer me to women who had been trafficked locally or abroad and all I'd have to do was set an interview with each then put her story down on paper.

The book was launched last January with the title "Nightmare Journeys: Filipina Sojourns through the World of Trafficking."

* * *

HAVING agreed to work on the book, I set out contacting groups providing services to women trafficked here and abroad. Immediately, I hit an obstacle. Some groups wanted formal letters requesting for references and vouching for my assistant Genna before they would even agree to contact possible sources. But even after they received these letters, the groups wanted assurances that I would respect the privacy of the women and protect their identities. Others said I would need to compensate my interviewees for their time, since some would be foregoing a day's wage and spending for transportation just to talk to me.

Surprisingly (to me at least), some groups turned me down flat. Later, I would learn that they had serious reservations about subjecting the women, who had been traumatized by their experiences and worked so hard to leave the past behind, to an interview that would only re-open old wounds and require them to revisit the site of their most painful experiences. Out of past betrayals by the media, I suppose, they also had difficulty believing my assurances that the women would not be exposed, which was apparently the women's greatest fear. Doesn't say much about the level of public trust in the media, does it?

The question of re-visiting the trauma was not easily overlooked. The executive director of Batis, an NGO providing re-integration assistance to women returning from Japan, told me that they referred to me only those women who, in their opinion, had sufficiently recovered from their traumatic experiences and were already able to talk about their ordeal. Still, some of the women appeared shaken after our talk, clearly nervous about the possibility of their revelations coming back to haunt them.

* * *

THE FIRST NGO to agree to my request for a referral was the Remedios AIDS Center, and so it was that my first interviewees, Patricia and Alicia, were women living with HIV who were working at Remedios part-time as peer counselors.

Patricia's story is, in the opinion of Tony Hidalgo, my publisher, the most striking of the 14 stories told in "Nightmare Journeys." Actually, I had already read a rough version of Patricia's account from the proceedings of an international conference on HIV/AIDS. But hearing it told in person, one receives the full brunt of its savagery and Patricia's brutal honesty.

The child of an African-American serviceman and a Filipina who may have worked as a hostess in the area around Clark Field, Patricia grew up distant from her father, emotionally abandoned by her mother and relentlessly persecuted by classmates and teachers for her dark skin and African-American features. When she was 13, though, she left her grandfather's house in Samar to live with her father, who had by then formed a new family. But what should have been a happy reunion turned into a dark tragedy because her father soon kept her a virtual sex slave in his home. When she was finally able to flee this hellhole, Patricia had nowhere to go to but the clubs of Angeles, where she worked as a dancer and then as a sex worker. She suspects a foreigner boyfriend as having been the one to gift her with HIV. But she admits it was her positive status that propelled her to leave sex work and find employment as a peer counselor.

* * *

ALICIA has worked many years as a dancer, waitress, hostess and call girl locally and abroad, but she counts an early childhood rape in the hands of a paternal uncle as the defining experience that led to where she is now. It was the rape that led to the breakdown of her parents' marriage, she surmises, and the rape that ingrained in her the belief that she would never be good for anything else but sex work. When her other uncles began to paw her after she reached puberty, Alicia decided it was time to strike out on her own, reasoning that "if they were going to exploit my body, I might as well make my own money from it."

(To be concluded)

Making historical writing popular

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

AFTER reading "Whatever," Carmen Guerrero Nakpil's latest compilation of essays chosen from over 2,000 newspaper columns and occasional pieces written between 1987 and 2001, I remembered the saying that "journalism is history in a hurry." Mrs. Nakpil was, together with Nick Joaquin, E. Aguilar Cruz and Carlos Quirino, one of the pioneers of popular historical writing in the Philippines. They beat newspaper and magazine deadlines, and transformed a dry academic subject into something current as news.

Perhaps my column would not have been possible if Mrs. Nakpil had not opened newspaper space to history during the Martial Law years. Mrs. Nakpil's essays on Philippine history are educational for me because I can never hope to write as well as she does. Her best essays, I think, are those that carry her own personal history—painful memories of the Second World War, the development of postwar journalism, sharp observations on people and events in our time that will become, in due time, history.

Before Mrs. Nakpil were the essays of Felix Roxas that appeared in El Debate from 1926-1936. Roxas lived at the tail end of the 19th-century, he was a schoolmate of Rizal in the Ateneo and later served as Mayor of Manila 1905-1917. He had a lot of stories to tell and his reminiscences have since become history. I used the compilation of essays translated from the original Spanish by the Filipiniana Book Guild and going through the table of contents alone made me laugh because an innocent column titled "The Gay Life of Young Men" will be (mis)understood today in a way different from what Roxas or the translators intended in 1970. It is amazing how changes in the world can be seen through old newspaper columns.

Unfortunately, the dates when the Roxas columns originally appeared are not indicated in the book making one guess the context of particular columns and ideas. For example, "The Danger of Coeducation" was written after Roxas overheard UP President Rafael Palma talking of coeducation during the necrological services for Victorino Mapa. Mapa died in 1927 and at that time Roxas was of the opinion that:

"...coeducation cannot exist without the fatal consequences that actually affect it. Our very nature, those of us who are born in these latitudes, is the reason why there is truth in the saying: 'never put a quilt next to the fire; because the devil comes and blows the fire on it.'

"This conflagration is inevitable because the age of puberty in the Filipino is advanced."

Roxas studied in the Ateneo in Intramuros that is so different from the present Ateneo in Loyola Heights and Rockwell. In his time:

"... with all the precautions taken by our mentors to avoid the effects of puberty, it happened that at the age of thirteen when we took up the study of two classics—Virgil on one side and Fenelon on the other—we staged a play about Olympus with goddesses, nymphs and nereids. Human nature takes its course and for an infinity of reasons this instinct develops until the time comes when passionate letters are addressed to each other by fellow classmates."

We must remember that in the Ateneo of Roxas' time these school plays were not co-educational and that being an "all-boys" school the roles of goddesses, nymphs and nereids mentioned by Roxas were played by males! Based on his experience Roxas was worried about puberty and co-education because in his school this resulted in attraction between the same sex:

"It was in the school year of 1877-1878 when, as a sort of punishment—something that causes me to blush and even become the butt of contemptuous ridicule—one of these passionate love letters was discovered by Father Morera, inspector of the older group of students. One morning after Mass, on the way from the refectory to the study room, he gathered the students to give them a lecture regarding one of these letters sent by a student from Vigan (who is already dead, leaving behind a big family) to X----, a patriot who has not yet returned from Spain and who absolutely ignored that passion he had inspired in a fellow student. The strict vigilance which the zealous fathers, professors, and inspectors exercised was insufficient to counter-check that overflow of adolescent passions, often directed to some sister, cousin, or friend of some fellow student who had made her appearance in the visiting hall during holidays.

"All of these factors leads me to the conclusion that coeducation at an early, middle, or mature age will irretrievably bring about fatal consequences. Coeducation stimulates flirting in the woman who, by instinct, initiates and displays all means at her command to please. It is a form of danger for any young man who is attracted by a glance or a smile or a word from a charming girl. I do not know if our educators will find a solution to this problem. Unless coeducation in the elementary and secondary schools takes a different form, no solution, in my opinion, is in sight."

Roxas' essays like those of Mrs. Nakpil have become history to us. A mirror with which to compare their times and our own. I write this column wondering what future readers will say of us who live at the dawn of the 21st century.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

THEY SAID

Survey illogic

"There is tremendous satisfaction but there is also rejection. I find it illogical."

—Rep. Prospero Nograles said of the Ibon poll results on President Macapagal-Arroyo

Strong republic

"I am determined to build a strong republic by breaking the back of terrorism and criminality."

—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Defining quality

"It is the sum total of moral excellence more than the intellect that defines the Ombudsman."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo on the crucial appointment to be made by the President

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Looking after his constituents' welfare

WE write in response to Secretary Heherson Alvarez's letter (PDI, 8/7/2002) titled "An Act of Desperation." The title is quite apt, for Alvarez's diatribe against me is no more than what we have had from him in the previous weeks—namely, a desperate smear campaign to wear down the many principled parties who are opposing his confirmation as environment secretary.

By extension, we see that Alvarez, with his hand literally caught in the cookie jar, is doing all he can and in the only manner he knows how—underhanded dirty tricks—to stave off his very political extension.

Let us set the records straight: First, it was not us, but the management of Picop Resources Corp. that has charged Alvarez with seeking from them a substantial amount for him to grant Picop a new integrated forestry management agreement (Ifma).

I have merely been quoted in the media that, knowing Picop's situation and aware of Alvarez's unusual behavior with regard to the Picop Ifma renewal, I believe in the account of Picop's management when they say Alvarez did ask for a substantial amount from them.

I know it is not an easy thing for a company to blow the whistle on rapacious government officials, but I urge Picop to keep on with the good fight and cooperate fully with the authorities in this very serious matter. Only by doing so can we catch the so-called big fish who have all these years paid mere lip service to good governance but who in reality represent the worst of traditional politics.

Mr. Alvarez has tried to paint me as a lackey of Picop for coming out strongly in defense of its continued corporate survival. I have never hidden the fact that I have made representations with his office and that of other DENR officials in behalf of a new Ifma for Picop. But he has hidden the fact that the conversion of Picop's timber license agreement (TLA) into a new Ifma should have been straightforward under environment laws and regulations.

The clear interest of my own district in Surigao del Sur cannot also be disputed. Picop directly employs 5,000 of my constituents, benefits 15,000 families, and is the largest taxpayer in my province. I would have been remiss if I had failed to heed the call of the people of my province to fight for Picop's survival.

The records will show that no less than the President already gave marching orders to Alvarez for him to work for Picop's continued operations in October, to which he had already given a written pledge to do so. Now, from the revelations of Picop's management, we see that there was a more nefarious reason for Alvarez's inaction.

This to me is what most rankles. Here we are trying to tell foreign and local investors to put their money in the Philippines and that we are serious about creating and protecting Filipino jobs. But because of graft and corruption at the highest levels of both the Cabinet and the party, thousands of Filipinos, particularly in my own province—stand to lose their livelihood.

Well, we will not allow it, for as long we have life and limb. We will continue to oppose Alvarez's confirmation on substantive issues. Meanwhile, he can do his worst.

—PROSPERO A. PICHAY JR., congressman, First District, Surigao del Sur

Ensuring a soft or weak republic

BECAUSE Education Secretary Raul Roco has topped the popularity survey among "presidentiables" conducted by Ibon Foundation, it is important to bear in mind his recent "reform" of the Department of Education curriculum. Roco has cut down the time fixed for teaching history and other social science subjects, and expanded the hours for teaching English and physical science and mathematics subjects.

The apparent justification for Roco's curricular reform is that a better knowledge of English and science would provide our graduates with better employment prospects, and also encourage faster national economic growth. The facts show that these expectations are totally illusory. Fact one: Filipinos are the best English-speaking people in Asia, but the Philippines is at the bottom in economic growth. In economic development, the Philippines is definitely behind the non-English-speaking nations of Japan, China, India, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore. Fact two: According to a tracer study of the UP Research Foundation, out of 987 scholar-graduates of the Department of Science and Technology who responded to a survey questionnaire, 513 or 52 percent were unemployed at the time of the study.

In short, Roco's educational reform would only strengthen the current colonial structure of our educational system. We invest money in graduates who are supernumeraries in our country. They thus are forced to join a massive brain drain to other countries, which benefit from their locally learned skills and knowledge. The brain drain complements the brawn drain in which millions of English-speaking Filipinos join an exodus to serve foreigners and develop other countries, while our own country is condemned to poverty and our own people suffer from lack of proper services.

History will teach Roco that no country has gotten rich solely by exporting its natural resources: material and human. History will show that American became rich through industrialization (i.e., the processing of its raw materials for local and foreign consumption) and through immigration, firstly through the importation of African slaves, then through the massive inflow of labor from Europe and Asia. Countries like Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore and those of the Middle East are economically successful not because they export but because they import labor. History will reveal that a strong sense of nationalism is the foundation of a strong nation or a strong republic. Filipino pride is bolstered by the history of our revolution against Spain and our war for independence against the United States.

In denigrating the teaching of history and social sciences in our schools, Roco is ensuring that the Philippines continues to be a weak or soft republic.

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO, Proj. 6, QC

Clever but not funny gimmick

THOSE responsible for distributing Panatang Makabayan Cards supposedly by the President before the Sona were clever but not funny. The release to the media, especially its airing in TV networks has brought to the fore the desperation of the opposition in cutting down to size the already "small" yet strong competition offered by President Macapagal-Arroyo in both delivering goods and services to the people. The controversial cards were gross as they hyped and exploited the bad side or the more negative personal and physical attributes of the President.

Indeed the political misleading has started two years earlier than the next presidential election. I am sick and tired of life in the country. After five years abroad, I thought a new atmosphere of hope and vigor would greet me and my family. But nothing has changed.

—JOSEPH T. ANDRADA, 367 Aurora Blvd., QC

PANATA KO SA BAYAN
[ANG PANDAK: SONA 2002]

Ako ang Pandak...

Kinamumuhian ko ang Pilipinas,
Itinatatwa ko ang aking lupang sinilangan;
Ito ang tahanan ng mga mahina
Sakiten at walang pakinabang

Ako ang Pandak...

Bilang paghihiganti
Lalapastanganin at dudungisan ko
Ang puntod ng aking mga magulang.
Pagtatakellan ko
Ang aking kalinyak
Nang walang takot
Sa Diyos at sa bayan
Paglalaruan at lolokohin ko.
Ang bawat Pilipino
Kabilang na ang aking mga anak.
Nang walang pag-imbot at buong tapang
Sisikapin kong
Maging isang tunay
Na dugong Kapampangan (traydor at asot
Sa isip, sa salita at sa gawa

Ako ang Pandak!

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Change Imelda Ave. into Boni Gillego Ave.

THIS refers to your story titled: Boni Gillego, freedom fighter, dies, 81 (PDI Aug. 3, 2002).

The Philippines has lost an exemplary public servant and a genuine freedom fighter in the death of Boni Gillego.

It is not generally known that the Edsa People Power Revolution had its beginnings in the overseas Filipino freedom fighters like Gillego, Environment Secretary Sonny Alvarez, Raul Manglapus, Eddie Monteclaro Sr., Juan Mercado and many others.

Unknown to many people, Gillego, as congressman of Sorsogon, did not own a car. He did not also enrich himself while in office. He lived a simple and sober life. And he was devoted to his wife, Dolores, and his children.

To perpetuate his memory and to thank Gillego for his sacrifices to restore freedom and democracy during martial law, I suggest that Imelda Avenue be renamed Boni Gillego Avenue.

—OSCAR R. LANDICHO, orlandicho@hotmail.com.

A scandalized Comelec veteran

I READ with interest your paper's editorial of July 26. "One happy family" was an apt title. I am quite alarmed at the profligacy that now afflicts the present Commission on Elections. Imagine, the six members of the commission (including the chairman) providing themselves with three luxurious cars each, courtesy of the Filipino taxpayers!

The P8.5 million budget for these Granadas and Ventures would have gone a long way in helping the poll body's proposed modernization plan. It was ironic that on the same day your editorial came out, page 7 of your paper highlighted the Comelec's budget proposal of P6.6 billion for its so-called modernization for the next two years.

It is only the present commission that has gone overboard in reckless extravagance. This never happened during the times of Juan Borra, Jaime Ferrer, Leonardo Perez, Vicente Santiago Jr., Victor Savellano, Ramon Felipe Jr., Hilario G. Davide Jr. and Haydee Yorac, under whom I served one after another for 31 years before I opted to retire at 60 as assistant regional director.

I still vividly recall one day in 1989 when Davide (a high school seatmate of Abellana Vocational High School in Cebu City, class 1953), summoned me to his office in Intramuros when he was still the chairman. He offered me the post of manager of the Public Relations and Education Department or as assistant manager of administrative services department. Jestingly, I replied that I would accept if I could be provided with a service vehicle.

I still remember his answer: "Maning, the Comelec has 18 drivers in its payroll. But it has only six vehicles." I politely told him that I remain in Cebu as provincial election supervisor.

Times have changed within the commission since then, from frugality to one of profligacy.

—MANUEL N. OYSON JR., lawyer, Oyson & Oyson Law Office, Suite F, Oyson Apartments, M. H. Aznar road, Bgy. Sambag 2, Cebu City

On the legality of 5 bills passed in June 3-6 sesion

A BRIEF comment on your editorial of August 5:

1. Senate Resolution 391 is a compromise that seeks to resolve the issue of the legality of the passage by the then Senate majority on June 3-6 of 5 bills: the absentee voting bill, the anti-chainsaw act, the free patent act, the act creating the Fil-Hispanic day and a House bill that deals with a school in Samar.

2. As a compromise, it provides a framework plan to resolve the legality issue of the bills in question by following the principle of give-and-take. The opposition gives some to the majority. The majority reciprocates the gesture.

3. The opposition gave in to the demands of the majority to enable them to propose amendments to the absentee voting bill. In the process they would in effect recognize the lawful passage of the bill. That should not be too hard a pill for the administration senators to follow. After all, their allies in the House led by Speaker Jose de Venecia had accepted the validity of our having passed the school bill of Samar. The Speaker signed the bill after the Senate had passed it in our sessions on June 3-June 6.

Your assertion that I did not have the right to open the session on June 3 is amply refuted not only by legislative rules and judicial precedents but by plain common sense. Otherwise, the Senate's work could be derailed or prevented by the Senate President's, the Pro-Tempore's and the Majority Leader's refusing to call a senate session to order.

5. Finally, Senate Resolution 391 is a compromise framework plan that may be operationalized only in accordance with the Rules of the Senate. It is just like our country's agreement with the US to fight global terrorism. Yes, we fight terrorism but in accordance with law, the Constitution and civilized rules of international law and behavior. Yes, we should debate the absentee voting bill but in accordance with the Senate rules, the law and the Constitution.

—SEN. AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.

Suiting action to our goals

WE want to have a progressive Philippines. We all wish for a better nation. We dream of a more prosperous society. However, our want, wish and dream do not jibe with what we do, with our actions and reactions to the day to day circumstances and realities in our lives.

We are all aspiring for more investments, more business, more jobs, more benefits, more comfort, better pay, better standards and the like, but what have we been doing for the last decades that pushes us further away from our goals?

Several cases in point as follows:

1. We want to impress upon the world that Filipinos are friendly and easy to deal with. This impression can help us generate new investments and more overseas job opportunities.

Nevertheless, we viciously criticize our President, insult her policies and malign her person. Likewise, we protest against American assistance and presence, we strike out against employers and investors. Also, we harass businesspeople through kidnapping and corruption.

2. We want to attract more large investments to our country to generate more jobs and taxes for infrastructure. However, we are doing exactly the opposite by threatening to cancel the contracts with independent power producers who came to the rescue during our crisis years. Likewise, we are not honoring the contracts for the reclamation areas in view of constitutional restrictions.

Our prayer is that we all wake up to realize that our actions must fit our goals.

Goals that should bring about a better Philippines in terms of economic standards, moral values and political principles.

—MICHAEL SAY, founding chairman, Crusade for Better Philippines

Taiwan president's gambit may have misfired

TAIPEI—Moments after Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian dropped his weekend bombshell, fanning arch-rival China's greatest fears by backing legislation for a referendum on formal independence, he told staff not to worry.

"Wait a few days, this won't be a problem. Some people may have doubts, (but) be at ease," one close aide quoted Chen as saying. "I know what I'm talking about. After a while, you'll understand my goal." Four days after his boldest statements on independence since taking office in 2000, problems have mounted, doubts abound and—as Chen backpedals—many are still puzzling over what exactly the Taiwan leader was trying to accomplish.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Benjamin Kang Lim

The Chinese dragon predictably breathed fire. Beijing angrily warned Chen that stepping further down the road toward a referendum would lead to disaster.

Taiwan's stock market and currency tumbled for two days.

Chen's approval rating dropped to a record low. He surprised the island's closest supporter, Washington.

And cross-Straits trade talks are off for the foreseeable future, to the dismay of businessmen on the island.

It remains unclear whether Chen believed that his comments—to a group of supporters in Tokyo via video link—would pass unnoticed, or that they would stir such confusion in Beijing that policy-making paralysis would result.

Some senior Taiwan officials argue that Chen's remarks were a calculated risk aimed at forcing China to the negotiating table, but analysts say the risk was too great.

Many are simply mystified.

"We don't know how to read this," said Hsu Szu-chien, who advises Chen's Democratic Progressive Party on China policy.

Andy Chang, director of the Institute of China Studies at the private Tamkang University, said Chen may be trying to "force a truce with war." Su Chi, the previous administration's top China policy-maker, accused Chen of trying to poison the cross-Strait atmosphere and avoid talks with China by raising the issue of an independence vote.

Whatever his aims, Chen's popularity rating at home took a beating, falling to a record low 46 percent compared with over 80 percent when he took office in 2000, according to a survey by cable news network ETTV.

The Web site of the Office of the President was inundated with angry messages after Chen said on Saturday that a referendum was a "basic human right" and that in reality there was "one country on each side" of the Taiwan Strait.

China—with batteries of missiles lined up along its eastern seaboard facing Taiwan—warned Chen that he was leading the democratic island of 23 million people toward disaster.

And Chen has been forced into damage control.

He swiftly sent Taiwan's top China policy-maker to the United States—the island's main arms supplier and trading partner— to reassure an irritated Washington, not forewarned of his speech, that it did not signal a policy change.

Backing away from the "one country on each side" formula, Chen said in a statement on Tuesday that "equal sovereignty" would be a more appropriate way to sum up his speech.

On Wednesday the defense ministry, in another apparent effort to defuse tensions, scrapped war games set for next week.

Nevertheless, many of the island's business leaders shook their heads in disappointment at the suddenly dimmer prospects of Taiwan lifting a decades-old ban on direct air and shipping links with the mainland and thus cutting costs and transport time.

Opposition politicians called Chen reckless.

Government officials defended him, saying he was frustrated with Beijing's diplomatic bullying, missile deployment, refusal to renounce invasion threats and failure to respond to his overtures.

"There is now a lot of room for improving ties," said an official familiar with China policy who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"But if the mainland's reaction is strong, it only confirms the 'China threat theory' and proves that the mainland is not a land of opportunities." Some analysts say Chen's gambit may be to force China to the negotiating table as he would be virtually reassured of reelection in 2004 if he could prove to Taiwan voters that Beijing will deal with him.

But one Taipei-based Western diplomat said it was dangerous to try to slip Taiwan into the agenda of the Communist Party's 16th Congress later this year, when the world's most populous nation deals with a complex and emotive leadership succession.

"It's not the time for any Chinese leader to appear weak and be nice to Chen," the diplomat said.

For Taiwan, China's heir-apparent, Hu Jintao, is an unknown quantity while outgoing Chinese President Jiang Zemin is the devil the island knows.

"If Jiang stays on, there will be stability between the two sides to a certain extent," said a second official who asked not to be identified. "Compared to other leaders, Jiang is more acceptable and a moderate."

Reuters

Revised Jancom project to cost P21.01B

WE wish to correct a serious inaccuracy in the news report in your Aug. 3, 2002 issue titled: "Jancom files motion for execution." The opening paragraph of said article states that the total cost of Jancom's waste disposal contract is P350 billion. This is completely wrong.

The BOT contract itself stipulates that the total cost of the project with three facility components is $370 million, or when pegged at present exchange rate will cost about P18.5 billion. However, there has been an agreement in principle which we are now seeking to enforce through a court order to defer the waste-to-energy facility, and implement the two other components, namely, a sanitary landfill and three (3) materials recovery facilities/transfer stations (MRFs).

Consequently, the costs of the project facilities to be implemented are as follows: (a) for a sanitary landfill alone, the total project cost is: $197 million, or P9.88 billion; (b) with the provision of MRFs and sanitary landfill, the total cost of the two projects is $222.65 million, or P11.13 billion.

—ALFONSO G. TUZON, president, Jancom Environmental Corp., Centerpoint Bldg. Unit 804 8th Flr., Julia Vargas Ave. cor. Gamet St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Saddam: Attack-Iraq plan a 'sick dream'

IRAQI President Saddam Hussein delivers an address to the nation in this frame grab from Iraqi TV broadcast Aug. 8. Saddam said on Thursday that he was not frightened by threats from the United States and his country was ready to repel any attack. REUTERS/IRAQI TV

BAGHDAD—A US attack on the Arabs and Muslims is doomed to failure, President Saddam Hussein warned Thursday in an address to the nation, as fears mount that Washington will declare war on Iraq.

"All empires and evil coffin-bearers have been buried with their sick dreams when they have sought to harm Arab and Muslim nations," the Iraqi strongman said.

"This inevitable result awaits all those who try to attack the Arabs and Muslims," he added in a speech broadcast on state television to mark the 14th anniversary of the end of the Iran-Iraq war, which raged between 1980 and 1988.

"Darkness shall be defeated," vowed Saddam dressed in a black suit and grey tie. "The forces of evil will carry their coffins on their back to die in a disgraceful failure." Saddam called on the United Nations to honor its commitments to Iraq and to answer its questions, notably on sanctions.

"The right way is that the Security Council should reply to the questions raised by Iraq and should honor its obligations under its own resolutions," he said in a speech to the nation.

In three rounds of negotiation this year between Iraq and the United Nations, focused on the resumption of disarmament inspections, Baghdad has submitted a series of questions, notably on the lifting of the sanctions regime.

The world body slapped the embargo on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The 20-minute speech, littered with invocations to Allah and abstract historical lessons, recalled the Iraqi "victory" over Iran.

Iraq celebrates August 8 as the day of "victory" in the war that officially ended with a UN-brokered ceasefire on August 20, 1988. *AFP*

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Bush has few constraints in ordering Iraq attack

By Alan Elsner

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush may face a divided Cabinet, a reluctant military, a lukewarm Congress, a confused electorate and stiff opposition from key allies to a US invasion of Iraq, but if the president is determined, none of these are likely to stop him.

Political scientists and historians said presidential power in foreign affairs since the end of the Cold War had grown to the extent that there were far fewer constraints on Bush than on past presidents.

"In practice, he can do almost whatever he wants in foreign affairs. There is little to check US power and presidential power," said American University historian Allan Lichtman.

The US Senate Foreign Relations Committee held hearings last week, kicking off what is likely to be an intense public debate about the wisdom of invading Iraq, named by Bush as part of an "axis of evil." Bush himself said on Wednesday he would be patient and consult both with Congress and US allies but reiterated that Iraq's attempts to develop weapons of mass destruction posed a real threat to the United States that had to be dealt with.

"I will explore all options and all tools at my disposal: diplomacy, international pressure, perhaps the military. But it's important for my fellow citizens to know that as we see threats evolving we will deal with them. We must deal with them," Bush said in Mississippi.

While Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld are thought to be pressing for a military onslaught early next year, Secretary of State Colin Powell remains skeptical, as do several key congressional figures, including Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, a respected Republican voice on foreign policy.

Leading Democrats, including Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, the chairman of the panel that held the hearings, say they believe an invasion is inevitable but the administration must first seek a congressional resolution approving the action.

"A lot more spadework has to be done to make a case to the American people, its allies and the region," Biden said.

Few politicians want to be branded as soft on Iraq, or risk casting a vote that could come back to haunt them in future elections. Some Congress-watchers believe a war resolution would win the support of virtually all Republicans and two thirds of Democrats.

A steady stream of leaks of possible military plans to the press also suggests there are deep misgivings, if not outright opposition, in senior ranks of the US military to an invasion. But even this would not deflect Bush if he were determined, although it might make him think twice.

"The president has considerable authority as commander in chief, and does not require either unity in his Cabinet or unanimous support from the uniformed military services," said Stephen Walt, a government professor at Harvard University.

The US public has hardly begun to debate the prospect of another war. But key allies in the Middle East, including Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, as well as close NATO friends in Europe and Canada, are openly opposed.

"International opposition will be great but it does seem to dissipate once the United States sets its course. I've rarely seen the United States fail to get its way with something like this," said Michael Ratner, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York.

"There is not much backbone in the world against the United States. It has so many carrots and sticks. Some countries will snipe but the United States is so dominant right now it would take a lot to stop us," he said. *Reuters*

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Taiwan backtracks on independence poll

TAIPEI—Taiwan Prime Minister Yu Shyi-kun has said his government will not hold a referendum on independence unless it is forced into the move by China, reports said Thursday.

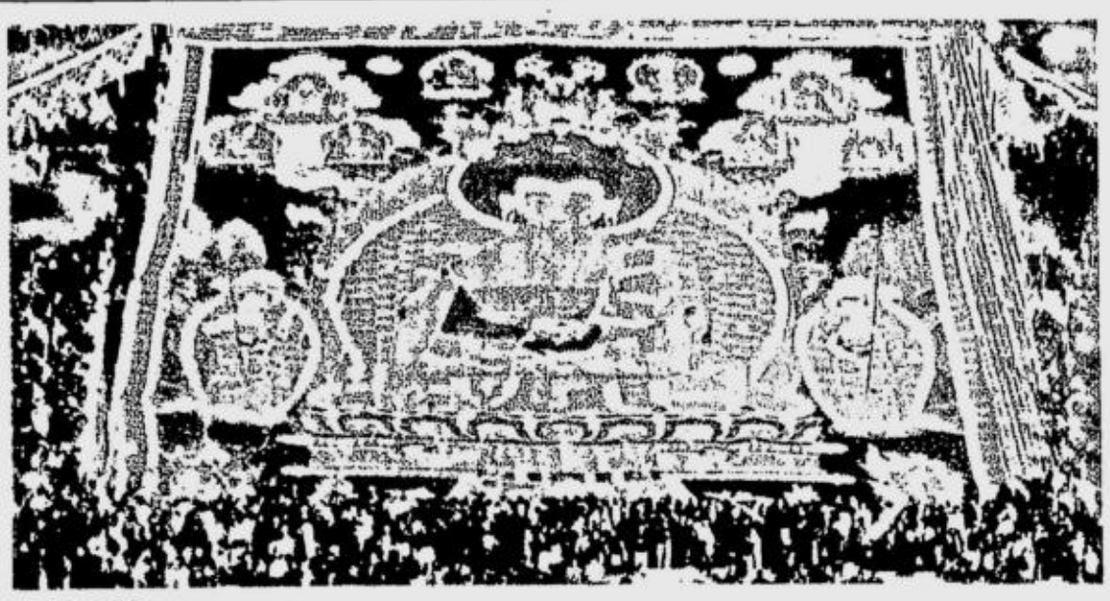
President Chen Shui-bian floated the idea of a referendum because of fears Taiwan would become another Hong Kong or Macau, the United Daily News quoted Yu as telling US businessmen in New York.

He said that Taiwan could never accept the "one country, two systems" formula under which the former colonies of Hong Kong and Macau were returned to China from Britain and Portugal.

"Taiwan has no intention of pressing ahead with a referendum but it has to consider the need for such legislation because of China's pressure," the paper quoted him as saying.

Chen has already asked his ruling Democratic Progressive Party to delay tabling a bill on legislation for a nationwide plebiscite to ease tensions with Beijing following his sensitive weekend remarks.

Taiwan has been ruled separately from mainland China since 1949, but Beijing considers the island an inalienable part of its territory and threatens to use military force to bring it back under its control. *AFP*



TANGKA REUTERS/CLARO CORTES IV

Tibetan Buddhists and tourists view a huge Tangka, a religious silk embroidery or painting unique to Tibet, during the annual Tangka ceremony at Drepung Monastery in Lhasa, August 8. Tens of thousands of Tibetan pilgrims and visitors trekked to the monastery to pay tribute to the Tanka, a 37-meter wide by 42-meter high hand-made patchwork, or embroidery, portrait of the Buddha at Drepung Monastery, one of the largest monasteries in the world.

Separated twins 'fighting fit' after operation, doctors say

LOS ANGELES—Twin Guatemalan girls, who spent the first year of life joined at the head, have yet to open their eyes after marathon separation surgery but were expected to make a full recovery, doctors said on Wednesday.

Twins Maria Teresa and Maria de Jesus Quiej-Alvarez were still under heavy sedation and on ventilators after their grueling 22-hour surgery ended on Tuesday at Mattel Children's Hospital at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Sedatives, used to keep the lively pair still, meant the girls still had their eyes closed but doctors said they had appeared fighting fit immediately after the surgery.

"Both of them moved their hands, feet, everything. Both of them were strong enough to cough and that is why we had to use the paralytic agents so they don't fight the ventilator and so they have a good 24 to 48 hours to let the brain relax after the surgery," intensive care specialist Andy Madikians told a news conference.

"I don't see why they shouldn't recover fully. At this point, things are going the way they should," he added.

The girls were born in a rural area of Guatemala's south coast with the tops of their heads fused and their faces tilted in opposite directions.

Parents Leticia Alba and Wenceslao Quiej-Alvarez are from Belen, one of thousands of dirt-poor coastal hamlets where people eke out a living in the banana, sugar and coffee industries.

The twins' father on Wednesday thanked God for the successful outcome of the surgery. "I am feeling more happy knowing that everything is coming out well," he told reporters.

In Guatemala, half an hour's drive from the nearest paved road, residents of tiny Belen on Wednesday prepared to welcome about 100 well-wishers who were headed to the hamlet for a prayer meeting dedicated to the girls.

In a one-room concrete house surrounded by fields, their paternal grandparents prayed before a makeshift altar displaying photographs of the twins amid candles, accompanied by a handful of local women. *Reuters*

Mideast security talks fail

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Talks between Israeli and Palestinian officials on an Israeli security plan to tackle the 22-month conflict "failed, as Israel imposed new conditions," Nabil Abu Rudeina, a close aide to Yasser Arafat, said early Thursday.

"Israel went back on its position of Monday under which the security plan would also be applied to Bethlehem after Gaza, saying it would only be applied to Gaza, and adding many new conditions," the aide to the Palestinian leader said after Wednesday's meeting. He gave no further details.

The Palestinian cabinet had earlier given a tentative green light to an Israeli plan titled "Gaza First" during an emergency session.

The plan presented on Monday by Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer to newly-appointed Palestinian interior minister Abdelrazak al-Yahya at a meeting in Jerusalem broadly set out an Israeli withdrawal from re-occupied land in return for a crackdown on militants.

"The leadership decided to agree with this plan as it is the first step of a comprehensive withdrawal from the re-occupied territories and a return to the borders of 28 September 2000," when the Palestinian uprising broke out, public works minister Azzem al-Ahmed said Wednesday.

The plan, to be first applied in Gaza, would then have been applied in Bethlehem in the West Bank where police had been told after Monday's meeting to prepare to resume their functions.

A member of the Palestinian Authority Zyad Abu Zyad on Thursday called for an end to Palestinian attacks in Israel in an interview on Israeli public radio.

"The attacks on civilians in Israel must stop immediately. We must keep this goal in sight so as to be able to resume negotiations," he said speaking in Hebrew. *AFP*

Negotiator: Only alternative to Arafat is chaos

WASHINGTON—Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's top negotiator made his first visit to Washington for talks with US officials since President George W. Bush called on Palestinians to dump Arafat and seek a new leader.

As he prepared to meet Secretary of State Colin Powell and White House National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on Thursday, the Palestinian negotiator, Saeb Erekat, told reporters the only alternative to Arafat was chaos.

He made no specific mention of Bush's June 24 speech in which he urged Palestinians to elect new leaders "not compromised by terror," but made his own loyalties plain.

"Where do you think I come from, Mars? I'm part of Arafat's leadership," Erekat said in response to questions.

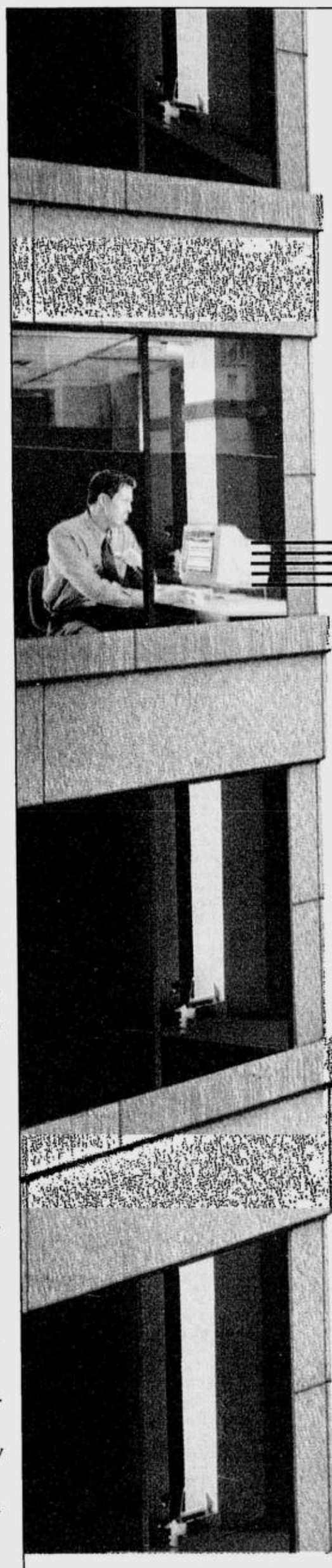
"We all know that the alternative to Arafat is chaos, ladies and gentlemen, Palestinian militants spread in each neighborhood, maybe having civil strife . . . and competing to send more suicide bombers to Israel."

He implicitly accused the United States of playing into the hands of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who is seen by many Palestinians as intent on destroying Arafat's authority.

The United States has adopted a new policy since Bush's speech in June. It now seeks dialogue only with representatives of Arafat who are "empowered" to speak for him. According to US officials, these are the kind of people who can undertake the radical reforms Bush has declared necessary before a Palestinian state can be created.

"Do you think that Sharon cares if Palestinians are ruled by Attila the Hun or a boy scout?" Erekat asked rhetorically.

"You can take a cost-free road and . . . blame the Palestinians, find a pretext, say Arafat this or that. This is not the issue. The issue is the ongoing vicious cycle," he said. *Reuters*



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Libya ready to pay for Lockerbie

SIRTE, Libya—Libya said on Wednesday it was ready in principle to pay compensation for the 1988 airliner bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people and to address UN demands it accept responsibility for the attack.

Foreign Minister Mohammed Abderrahmane Chalgam, speaking after unprecedented talks between Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and Britain's junior Foreign Office Minister Mike O'Brien, also said Libya wanted to formalize relations with the United States.

"Regarding compensation, as a principle, yes we are going to do something on that topic," he told reporters after the two and a half hour talks in Gadhafi's Bedouin tent on a Mediterranean beach in the town of Sirte.

"Regarding responsibility, we are discussing this issue: . . . we are ready to get rid of this obstacle," he said.

Jim Swire, a spokesperson for families of victims of the Lockerbie bombing, cautiously welcomed Libya's comments.

"I think we should regard it as a significant step forward, but of course, paying compensation is only one of the things that Libya has to do if she wants to get the UN sanctions permanently removed," he told Sky News.

Chalgam's comments came after Gadhafi held what officials said were his first talks with a British minister since he seized power in a 1969 revolution.

The talks cap a cautious re-engagement between the former foes after years of hostility following the fatal shooting of a British policewoman outside Libya's London embassy, British-backed US raids on Libya and the Lockerbie bombing.

UN sanctions imposed on Libya have been suspended. British officials said Chalgam's comments were the clearest signal yet that Libya would comply with remaining obligations to ensure their final lifting.

Chalgam said he hoped the improved relations with Britain, which for years demonized Libya as a terrorist pariah, could help mend Tripoli's ties with Washington.

"We are completely keen to arrive at reconciliation and normalisation with the US," he said. Washington has remained skeptical of Libyan intentions and says it is still seeking to acquire chemical weapons.

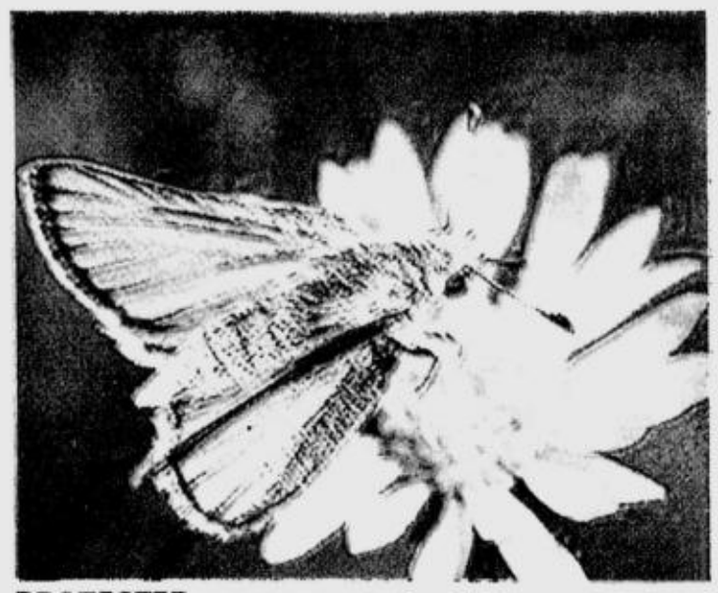
Chalgam scoffed at the US allegations, saying his country was too busy fighting poverty in Africa to dabble in weapons of mass destruction. "We don't have time or money to spend in such silly work," he said.

"We are ready to comply with international law and with international efforts, especially in this (issue)," he said.

Gadhafi, who wore a yellow-rimmed sunhat and dark glasses, smiled and flashed a two-fingered victory sign to reporters, left in a sleek black motorcade after the talks.

O'Brien brought a letter from British Prime Minister Tony Blair welcoming the recent improved ties.

He said Libya was prepared to sign a global convention on chemical arms allowing for international inspections and was looking at cooperating with a code of conduct on ballistic missiles. *Reuters*



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A Carson wandering skipper butterfly is shown in this undated handout photo provided by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The thumbnail-size butterfly, found only in northwestern Nevada and northeastern California, was given permanent protection August 7 under the Endangered Species Act.

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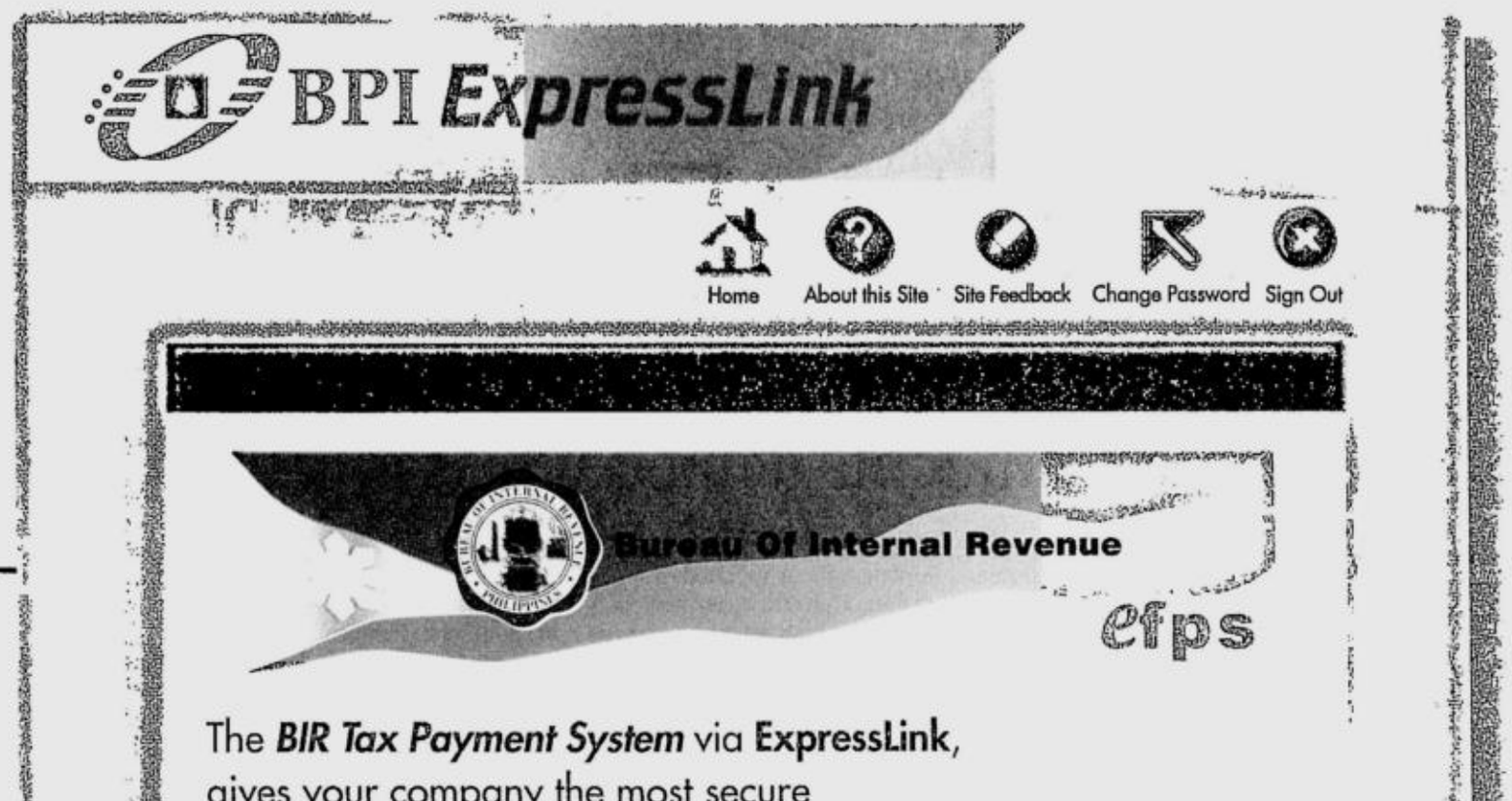

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South Africa transformation a balancing act

By Hilary Gush

JOHANNESBURG—South Africa must bring the black majority into its economic mainstream to avoid social upheaval in the years ahead, analysts say, but it faces an uphill battle to do that without spooking foreign investors.

No-one disputes the need to transform the economy from one where the white minority—less than 10 percent of the population—still holds the economic reins eight years after the end of apartheid.

But it's the way the government achieves its aim of wider black ownership or "economic empowerment" that is in question.

"Uncertainty is terrible, but change must come. We cannot limp along like Zimbabwe for 18 years with cosmetic or no change and then find we have a revolution on our hands. We have to grasp the nettle now," said Reg Rumney of consultancy BusinessMap.

"However much we would all like market forces to hold sway, in a place like this with such an enormous disparity in ownership left by apartheid, it's clear that government intervention has to galvanize the private sector," he added.

Black companies

Black-controlled companies make up only around two percent of the South African bourse, which is dominated by big mining companies like Anglo-American and BHP Billiton .

About a third of the workforce is unemployed and income disparities between mainly rich whites and mostly poor blacks are as glaring as ever. The lack of skills left by the years of apartheid education is still the main challenge.

White rule came to an end in the early 1990s after protracted negotiations which included assurances that the market economy would continue.

"The next step also involves negotiation on how we unbundle the private sector," said Mandla Maleka, treasury economist at power utility Eskom.

Plans to revamp the mining sector, a mainstay of the economy, have brought black empowerment sharply into focus.

A draft mining charter published in late July sent shockwaves through the economy, triggering a tumble in mining shares and pressuring the rand. It proposed that control of all new mining projects would have to rest with black businesses within 10 years.

It also suggested that up to 30 percent of equity in existing operations must be given to black-owned mining companies before licenses to expand related projects were issued.

Although mining makes up only about six percent of South Africa's GDP, it accounts for about a third of South Africa's exports. The sector is also the largest single private employer.

Plans to make the mining sector more representative have been in the pipeline for more than five years, but investors have taken fright at the draft's prescriptive targets and timetables.

"The charter's high targets and ambiguous phrasing allowed investors, in times of market uncertainty, to put the worst possible interpretation on it," said Merrill Lynch economist Nazmeera Moola.

Nationalization

Since its release some big fund managers have referred to South Africa's "nationalization" plans, she said.

"But this government has no track record of talking about nationalization." Government plans to change telecoms policy last year also met with criticism from the industry. But the government eventually back-tracked, appeasing potential investors.

It also got energy companies to agree to ensure that 25 percent of the industry is owned by black companies by 2010.

"Although the final policy actually ends up being sensible, the government does a lot of damage along the way. Every time one of those things come up, the risk premium on South Africa goes up," Moola said.

Getting the balance right is difficult for the African National Congress-led government, which relies on support from its communist and trade union alliance partners.

The South African Communist Party and labor federation have recently said they are unhappy with the government's economic plans and its move to more market-friendly policies. *Reuters*

Ex-Nicaragua president charged with laundering

MANAGUA—Nicaraguan President Enrique Bolanos urged lawmakers to strip his predecessor and current speaker of parliament Arnaldo Aleman of his immunity against prosecution so he can stand trial on charges that he laundered $10 million during his five years in the presidency.

"Don't be afraid. Listen to Nicaragua's outrage, study and analyze the evidence and see how the money went directly to the Nicaraguan Democratic Fund—a fund run by Aleman's partners, and from there to the pockets of his family," Bolanos told lawmakers late Wednesday.

Bolanos asked lawmakers to strip Aleman of his immunity from prosecution as president of the National Assembly.

Special prosecutor Ivan Lara earlier Wednesday said that in Aleman's alleged operation, checks were issued by state institutions, and procedural and accounting rules were violated, with funds moved to individuals, corporate consultants and businesses. He handed the case to judge Juana Mendez.

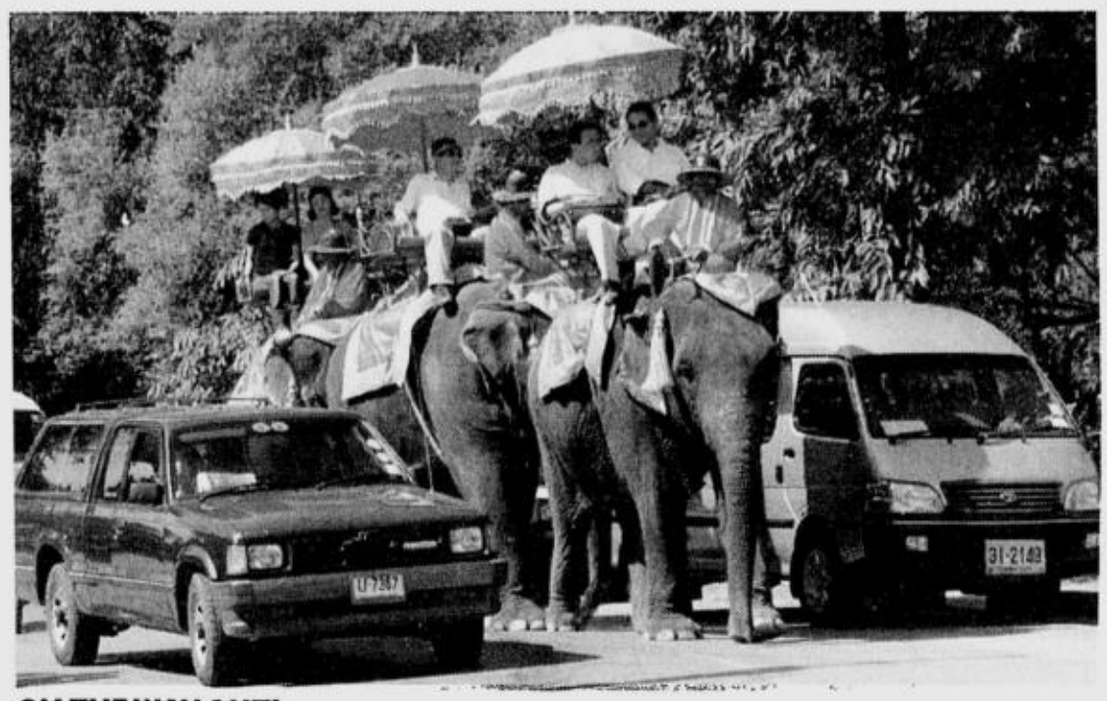
The complaint also extended to another 14 people, including Aleman's private secretary Alfredo Fernandez; his brothers and sister Alvaro, Antonio and Amalia Aleman; and his children Maria Dolores and Arnoldo Aleman.

A report by former central bank president Noel Ramirez claimed Aleman, Fernandez and Lorenzo Guerrero, a former chief of staff since deceased, spent more than $1.8 million over five years on personal expenses, including jewels and clothes.

Aleman, a former Managua mayor was elected in 1997 and left office in January. Like Bolanos, he is a member of the Liberal Party.

The charges against Aleman, his relatives and associates stem from an ongoing investigation by the attorney general's office into the former president's dealings while he was in office.

Attorney General Francisco Fiallos on Wednesday said his probe "so far has uncovered a loss of 1,391,830,015 Cordobas ($97.6 million)" in public funds from corruption during Aleman's presidential term. *AFP*



ON THE WAY OUT?
Elephants with tourists riding on their backs walk along the traffic in Ayuthaya Province, 60 km north of Bangkok, Thailand, Thursday, Aug. 8. A public hearing for sightseeing on elephants is to be held Thursday to discuss whether to relocate the elephant camp from the city center as residents complan over their droppings and the traffic jam.

Suu Kyi seeks release of political prisoners

BANGKOK—Burma opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has insisted on the release of all political prisoners in her country before she sits down for what could be landmark political talks with the ruling military junta.

In a video message released late Wednesday in Bangkok, Burma's most prominent democracy advocate warned the current political stalemate that has gripped her nation would continue "until all our political prisoners are free."

"We insist that the release of political prisoners is necessary if the process of reconciliation is to go forward to a point where it becomes truly irreversible," Aung San Suu Kyi said in the video released by regional campaign group Altsean-Burma.

"Until all our political prisoners are free, none of us can say that Burma is now truly on the road towards democratic change," said the 1991 Nobel peace laureate who was released May 6 from 19 months of house arrest.

"Unless political organizations are free to go about their work unhindered and unintimidated by the authorities, we can never say that we have started the process towards changed democracy." About 1,500 political prisoners are believed to be in the country's jails.

The message by Aung San Suu Kyi, who heads the National League for Democracy (NLD), came on the eve of Thursday's 14th anniversary of pro-democracy uprisings in Rangoon in which student demonstrators were brutally suppressed. *AFP*

Florida inmates complain they have no air-cons

JACKSONVILLE, Florida—Florida death row inmates say temperatures routinely top 38 degrees Celsius in their cells, forcing them to stand in toilets, drape themselves in wet towels and sleep naked on concrete floors.

In a class-action lawsuit, inmates say the heat and lack of air-conditioning inside Union Correctional Institution amount to cruel and unusual punishment, and could lead to mental and physical illness and even death.

US District Judge Ralph W. Nimmons, who has toured the prison 72 km southwest of Jacksonville and last week interviewed some of the 300 inmates, is expected to rule later this year.

By the time the lawsuit is decided, the inmates will have endured three summers of what their attorneys claim is a "dungeon-like atmosphere" since the case was filed in 2000.

"We want them to bring the temperatures down," said Randall Berg, a Miami attorney representing the inmates.

But lawyers with Florida's Attorney General's Office said the heat conditions are not severe enough to violate the constitution.

"I consider this a borderline frivolous lawsuit," said Caryl Killinski, who represents the state in the case. "It gets warm in any building not air conditioned."

Berg said the heat is especially oppressive for older and obese inmates and those with physical and mental health problems.

"Subjecting inmates, who are confined in their cells nearly all the time, to temperatures almost always in excess of 32 degrees C, frequently in excess of 38 degrees C, and as high as 43 degrees C, can only be called physically barbarous," the lawsuit alleges.

But Killinski disagreed.

"Since 1992 . . . there has not been one single case of an inmate suffering from a heat-related illness," she said.

Court documents show 30 prisoners sought medical treatment from June through September 2000 and 18 for the same period in 2001 for symptoms of faintness, nausea, headache, apprehension, dizziness, irritability, weakness, unsteady gait, or excessive thirst and hunger. *AP*

Remains of Daniel Pearl finally being taken home

KARACHI, Pakistan—A plane carrying the remains of murdered US reporter Daniel Pearl left the airport in the southern Pakistan city of Karachi early on Thursday, heading for Los Angeles, airport officials said.

Pearl's remains left Pakistan more than six months after he first disappeared in Karachi while researching a story on Islamic militants against a backdrop of the September 11 attacks on the United States.

His yellow, wooden coffin had been taken from a Karachi mortuary into a waiting ambulance, which arrived at the cargo area of the city's airport a few minutes later.

A wreath of red flowers lay on top of the coffin with a note in English from the Abdul Sattar Edhi Foundation, a welfare organization that runs the morgue where Pearl's body was kept.

"For the peace of the soul of Daniel Pearl," it read.

US consular officials were in attendance at the airport to see off the Cathay Pacific flight to the United States.

Pearl was born in Princeton, New Jersey, but grew up in California.

A torso, severed head and other body parts were found in May in a shallow grave in a garden on the outskirts of Karachi.

Pakistan said in late July that DNA tests carried out locally showed the body was Pearl's.

British-born Islamic militant Ahmed Omar Sayeed Sheikh was sentenced to death last month for the kidnap and murder of Pearl, and his three accomplices were sentenced to life in prison. All four plan to appeal against the decisions.

Execution in Pakistan is carried out by hanging, but usually only after an exhaustive appeals process. *Reuters*

ENHANCER
Dr. Richard Greco instructs Elizabeth Goolsby on the proper usage of the Brava Breast Enhancement and Shaping System in his office Aug. 7 in Savannah, Georgia. The Brava system is an FDA approved, non-surgical system that increases breast size one cup size, or 50 percent, by increasing breast tissue using suction, ten hours a day for a ten-week period.

Chinese students denied US visas protest in Beijing

BEIJING—Calling the US government unfair and uninformed about China, students rejected for American visas staged a rare, peaceful protest outside the US Embassy on Thursday, demanding changes in how such applications are handled.

Roughly 25 students gathered on a busy street in front of the well-guarded entrance to the embassy's consular section, where hundreds mass each day seeking visits to the United States.

"It's not fair to Chinese. We're good people. We want to study," said Yue Bo, a student and protest leader who wants to study civil engineering at Texas A&M University. Among eight of his friends from Tsinghua University, he said, only one visa application was accepted.

"It's good for American development," he said. "Chinese people are motivated and smart."

Most demonstrators, who said they had been rejected two, even three times, said interviews by US embassy immigration officials focused on whether the students had close ties to their homeland—in effect, whether they were likely to leave the United States when their visas expired.

"They say I won't come back," said Yue Taipin, one of the protest leaders, who said he lost his opportunity to study public administration at the University of Southern California because his application was rejected.

"But I love my country," he said. "I hope to come back and promote the reform of China."

The US Embassy said it was looking into the students' new complaints. It said it had responded to a smaller protest earlier this week by offering additional appointments "to ensure that Chinese student visa applicants in Beijing have a reasonable opportunity to obtain visas prior to the start of the academic year."

Any kind of open protest is rare in China. And Thursday's midday protest was extraordinary because police—rather than breaking it up—calmly managed it and directed traffic to make sure it didn't get out of control.

The Chinese government usually punishes public demonstrations harshly. But this protest was slightly different: It was not directed against the Chinese government and was advocating something that, for the Beijing leadership, is not controversial.

"Not a problem," said one police officer at the scene, "We want the same thing they want." *AP*

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11:00 AM **THE NAVIGATORS** (UK) directed by Ken Loach
2:00 PM **RING 2** (Japan) directed by Norio Tsuruta
5:00 PM **WHAT TIME IS IT THERE** (Taiwan) directed by Tsai Ming-Liang
8:00 PM **FRIEND** (Korea) Kwak Kyung-Taek
11:00 PM **KIKUJIRU** (Japan) by Takeshi KItano

GREENBELT CINEMA 2

11:00 AM **FRANCOIS OZON FILM "8 WOMEN"** (France)
2:00 PM **HOLLYWOOD HONG KONG** (Hong Kong) by Fruit Chan
5:00 PM **THE PERSONALS** (Taiwan) by Chen Kuo-Fu
8:00 PM **ELIANA, ELIANA** by Riri Riza
11:00 PM **TAXI PARA TRES** (Chile) by Orlando Lubbert

*Schedules subject to change without prior notice

Makati Cinemanila 4th Annual International Film Festival

Transvestite sues LA beauty school

LOS ANGELES—A transvestite sued a Los Angeles beauty school on Wednesday, claiming his application was rejected when school officials realized he was not a woman.

The lawsuit, brought by a plaintiff known only as "Sandy," is the first of its kind under a 1979 city ordinance that prohibits businesses from discrimination based on sexual orientation, Sandy's attorney, Gloria Allred, said.

"Sandy is not required to appear as a man because she is a man or has male genitalia," said Allred, a high-profile Los Angeles lawyer.

When he enrolled last month at the Marinello School of Beauty in Los Angeles, Sandy was perceived to be a woman, Allred said.

After passing a test and paying a $100-fee, he was accepted to the school and told to report for classes in August. "Sandy was very happy, but her happiness did not last very long," Allred said, referring to her client as a woman. "It had been her dream to attend beauty school."

Two hours later, after learning from Sandy's passport that she was legally a man, school officials called to say that she would not be permitted to attend classes because of concerns over which restroom he would use at school, Allred said.

Sandy offered to use the restroom of the school's choice or to go off campus to answer nature's call but the school refused the offer, Allred said. *Reuters*

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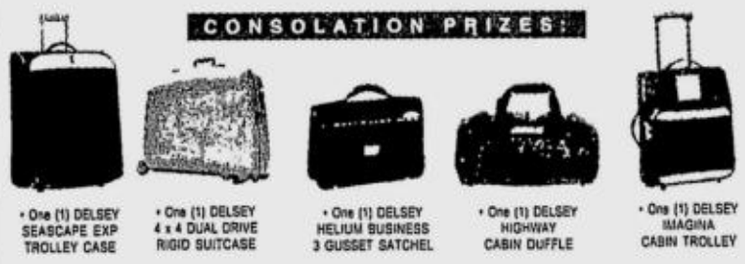

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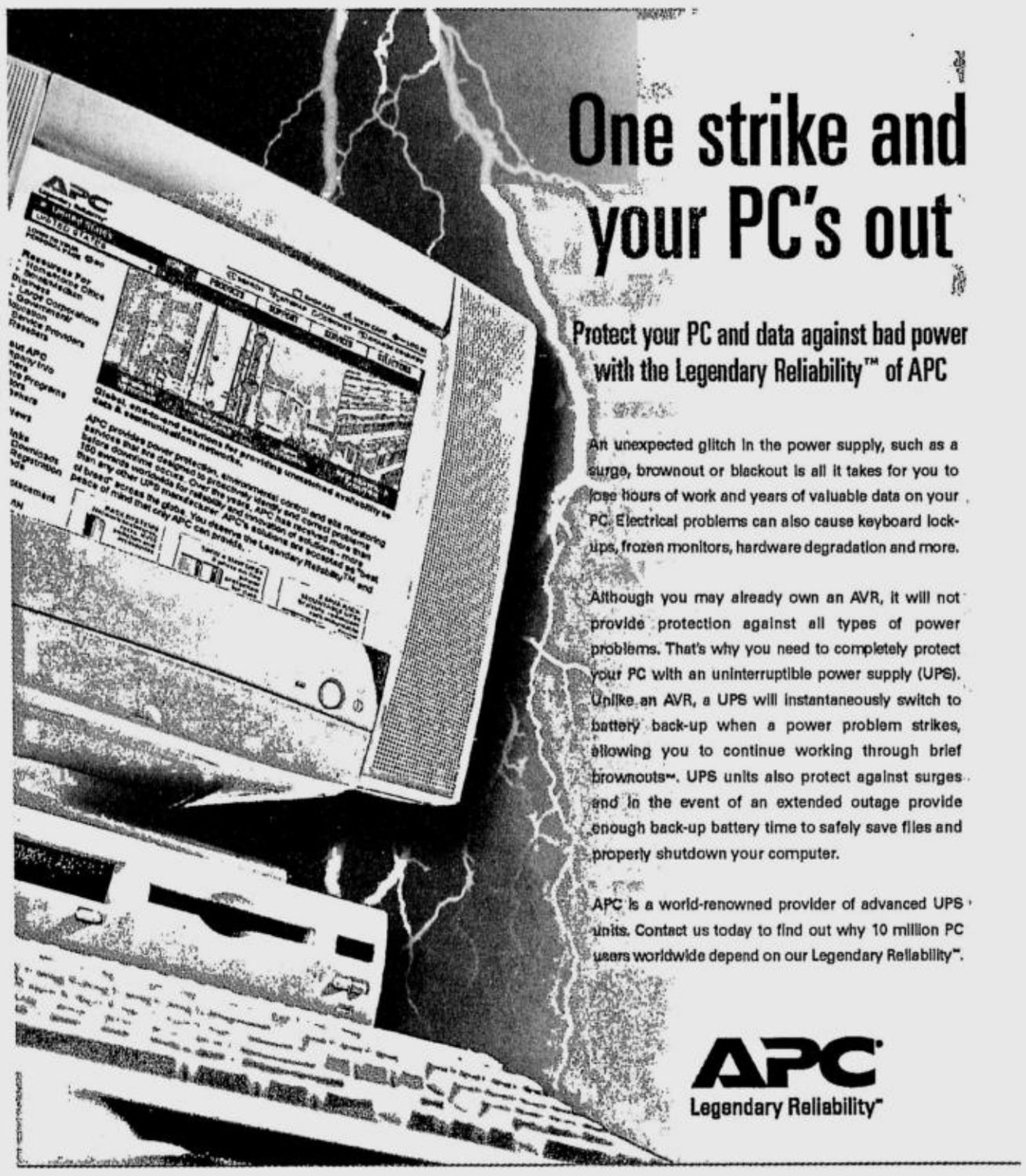

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Batanes folk angered by landings of US aircraft at Basco airport

By Juliet Cataluna
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BASCO, Batanes—Ivatans, who have always denounced the illegal entry of Chinese and Taiwanese vessels in their waters, are up in arms against a different kind of foreign entrant: American planes landing at the Basco airport to refuel.

Last week, two US C-130 cargo planes and four helicopters came in flying very low. Their successive arrivals caused so much turbulence that knocked down trees and damaged some houses here, the capital of the country's northernmost province.

Luisa Lansangan, a resident of Basco, said a pile of newly formed hollow blocks in their yard was destroyed as a result of the turbulence.

Vice Gov. Constante Castillejos, the acting governor of Batanes, said the provincial government was not properly informed of the American planes' refueling at the Basco airport.

Castillejos, after receiving complaints from the affected residents, ordered provincial social welfare officer Jerome Castillo to assess the damage.

Minimal

Castillo said his initial assessment showed that the damage was "very minimal." But he said while the damage could easily be repaired, the inconvenience that the planes' arrival caused among residents could not be taken for granted.

Castillejos said the provincial government has not been officially advised about the arrival of foreign planes.

He said the province does not get any financial or material benefits for the use of the airport, "except for occasional candies given away to children gawking at the planes."

He admitted that he was annoyed by the pilots' apparent "no care attitude" when the planes landed here.

He said he was hoping that the government would look into the legality of the refueling stops at the Basco airport.

Rufino Veracruz, officer-in-charge of the local Air Transportation Office (ATO), said in cases like these, the ATO's main office always gives the flight clearance.

But he said pilots of foreign planes are required to first submit their flight plans to the ATO.

No fees

Asked if the foreign aircraft ever paid any fee, Veracruz said all military planes are exempted from paying fees.

He said the Basco airport is not really designed for big aircraft like the C-130 cargo plane, but the ATO's main office usually decides whether it will allow a large aircraft to land in the airport.

Veracruz said when large airplanes maneuver at the far end of the runway, these usually scrape off the runway's asphalt surface.

Subic draws 4.5M tourists in 6 months

OLONGAPO CITY—In spite of the Asian currency crunch and the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attack on the US, the number of tourists visiting the Subic Bay Freeport Zone has reached 4.5 million in the first six months this year.

The figure surpassed the 1.7 million tourist arrivals in the same period last year.

Armin Santos, SBMA tourism department manager, said the 169 percent increase in tourist arrivals at the freeport was a result of its growing number of tourist attractions, including eco tours in its forest trails.

About 2.5 million tourists came to Subic last summer. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

AIDS epidemic hangs over RP, says DOH exec

BACOLOD CITY—A health official yesterday warned that a Human Immune Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic could still explode in the Philippines because of multiple unprotected sex, low condom use, high prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases and poor health practices.

The message "is not to let our guard down," warned Dr. Consortia Quizon Lim, chief of staff of Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, at the opening yesterday of the First Visayas AIDS Convention held at the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel here.

Lim, who represented Dayrit in the conference, said the danger of an epidemic still looms if proper precautions are not taken, even as a United Nations' (UN) report in July 2002 cited the Philippines for having acted early to forestall an HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The Philippines, the UN report added, has kept HIV rates low because of strong prevention efforts and the mobilization of community and business organizations.

Since 1984 until June this year, about 1,700 HIV cases were reported in the Philippines, according to Lim.

Eric Camacho of Positive Life, a non-government health group in the forefront of the HIV-AIDS prevention campaign, said the number of HIV cases in the country could be higher, describing the government figure as "very conservative."

Lim lauded the organizers of the Visayas AIDS Convention, noting that the national resolve to fight AIDS requires the commitment not only from the government but also of civil society groups.

Some 400 delegates from the Visayas took part in the conference. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Troops interfere in clash, kill reb

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—An armed confrontation between two feuding communist factions in Zambales led government troopers to clash with one bloc, killing a rebel leader on Tuesday, an Army official said.

At least 28 government soldiers rushed to Barangay Sto. Rosario in Masinloc town after hearing the first burst of gunfire between the New People's Army rebels and the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan members at 3 p.m., said Lt. Col. Domingo Tutaan, chief of the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion.

Tutaan said Army troopers originally running after the NPA rebels caught up instead with about 30 RHB members. He said the battle, which lasted for more than 30 minutes, killed Ruperto Buensuceso, an RHB squad leader.

Tutaan reported the seizure of an M-16, a Carbine, several rounds of bullets and anti-government documents at the clash site.

He said the Army also took custody of Jonar Eldian, 17, and Patrick Vi[illegible]brylle, 10, to "ensure their safety." He said both minors were found at the encounter site. The two were turned over to policemen and social workers on Wednesday.

Reports said Buensuceso was killed during the NPA-RHB encounter but the Army claimed credit for it. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

3 cops killed in ambush

CAMP DANGWA, La Trinidad, Benguet—Three policemen were killed while another was wounded on Wednesday when armed men ambushed them in Lubuagan town in Kalinga, reports reaching here said.

Reports said the policemen were on their way back to Tabuk town in a police car from an operation in Lubuagan when armed men waylaid them at 3:50 p.m. Wednesday in Sitio Danggoy in Lubuagan.

Identified

Chief Supt. George Aliño, Cordillera police director, identified the fatalities as Insp. Nestor Miranda, PO1 Arthur Ambatcan and PO2 Nestor Mahiway, all belonging to the Kalinga police.

The police car fell into a 20-meter deep ravine after its driver, Ambatcan, was shot in the head.

Wounded

Supt. Antonio Gumerang, who led the Kalinga policemen in the operation, was wounded in the head and thigh.

Gumerang, who was wearing a bullet-proof vest, was treated at the Kalinga Provincial Hospital in Tabuk town and was declared out of danger.

Aliño ruled out any involvement of the communist rebels in the ambush. *Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 25°	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34°	Lo 26°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/09/02

For PICOP Stockholders and Associates Only

Hereunder is a letter disclosure we submitted to the PSE to clarify the recent set of lies that Sec. Alvarez had been peddling to the public against our company. Sec. Alvarez' concept of good governance is on the level of sewer tactics.

August 06, 2002 MA-090

Ms. Raquel R. Angeles
Analyst, Disclosure Department
Fourth Floor, Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

Dear Ms. Angeles:

In connection with your requirement today regarding the article:

"PICOP faces suit over P.5B in back taxes."

Kindly take note of the following:

1. Yesterday, a hearing was conducted in Makati on Civil Case No. 02-796 which PICOP filed against Sec. Alvarez.

2. During the hearing, the lawyer of Sec. Alvarez brought out the issue of P37.36 Million in unpaid forest charges which Sec. Alvarez had been widely disseminating in print and broadcast media by Sec. Alvarez himself and his massive media campaign.

   PICOP's response was to quote a DENR Administrative Order that says:

   "The charges of forest products herein imposed shall be payable at the time of removal from or utilization of the same within the concession area."

   PICOP further cited a certification issued by DENR itself dated May 27, 2002 that says:

   "This is to certify that the undisposed volume of logs substantially stocked in the mill compound of PICOP Resources Inc. (TLA No. 43) can cover the balance of forest charges amounting to P14,790,266.35."

From the above, it can be seen that under the DENR's own rules, forest charges are still not due.

We do not know where Sec. Alvarez got his figure of P37.36 Million.

Thus, this is again one of his wild, malicious and baseless accusations against PICOP delivered in public to the Filipino people.

3. Sec. Alvarez lawyer also cited a report from an EMB intelligence officer dated October 14, 1998 that says PICOP owes so much from its 1996 and 1997 operations.

The report mainly cited the imposition of a fine on PICOP for operating from January 1996 to May 1996 without the benefit of an approved IAOP.

THIS IS ENTIRELY FALSE.

The real story was PICOP already had its IAOP for 1996 approved by the Regional DENR level before it started its 1996 IAOP operation.

Approval sheet is enclosed as Annex 01.

Then Sec. Victor O. Ramos issued an order in March 1996 that requires the approved IAOP to have a clearance from the Secretary. This order was not known to PICOP at the time. Upon knowing this, PICOP proceeded to secure clearance from the DENR Secretary and received the same on May 24, 1996.

However, a 300% penalty on forest charges was imposed. This is the huge amount of P400 Million that Sec. Alvarez is referring to.

PICOP presented to the court, a copy of a letter dated January 23, 1997 by then Sec. Victor O. Ramos to PICOP that says:

"This refers to your letter-appeal on the imposition of the fine against your company equivalent to the regular forest charges plus 300% surcharge covering logs reportedly cut without the cleared and approved IAOP for CY 1996.

Acting on your appeal, the Undersecretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs and Attached Agencies recommended that your request for review and reconsideration of the fine imposed against your company be given due course. Based on the result of the review of the DENR Team headed by the Director of the Forest Management Bureau, it has been found out that your position is meritorious.

In view hereof, let us continue working harmoniously for the development and protection of our environment and natural resources."

(Annex 02)

Again, Secretary Alvarez have made extremely serious and hurting accusations with wild abandon.

Perhaps, Sec. Alvarez has not realized that he is in the Executive Branch, an alter ego of the President and not delivering a privilege speech while covered by parliamentary immunity.

As the above shows, even an intel report is used to malign maliciously a PSE listed company with thousands of stockholders.

Such intel reports do not even require accountability on the one reporting.

But for a Cabinet Secretary and alter ego of the President to use the same in a public accusation against any company in an industry that the DENR was supposed to promote and encourage, it is gutter tactics in its worst form.

Let us see whether during his term in the DENR, Secretary Alvarez can encourage investors to join in activities like tree plantations. A project requiring long term vision, huge investment and a lot of faith.

Present records show that what he had encouraged so far are a set of alien investors whose paid up capital of P400 thousand con[illegible] Sec. Alvarez to sign IFMAs for 110 thousand hectares.

The foreign direct investment that Sec. Alvarez so proudly claims can not even buy one FX mega taxi much less pay for survey fees of P5.5 million for the area he signed with them.

We trust that you will find the above in order.

Very truly yours,

VICTORIARTE E. UBALDE
Corporate Information Officer

advt.

Mt. Pinatubo victims' houses have defective floors

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—All 2,000 houses at the newly built San Isidro resettlement site, the last housing project of the government for Mt. Pinatubo victims, have defective floors, the chief of the Philippine Army's 51st Engineering Brigade, the project contractor, confirmed on Monday.

But Brig. Gen. Francisco Bravo, brigade chief, said about 1,000 houses had been repaired by the end of July.

Bravo denied that the materials used in the houses were sub-standard or were lacking. He called the problem a result of "poor workmanship" by civilian laborers.

Bravo said a mayor was responsible for hiring the laborers who did not do the job well or abandoned the project. He identified the mayor to reporters but asked that his name be withheld.

INQUIRER sources at the Pinatubo Project Management Office (PPMO), an interim body formed to finish the task of the defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission, said housing units at the San Isidro project were not only defective but also overpriced.

The sources said the soil fillings were not compacted, the houses were built before a road network was established and the materials did not conform to specifications.

They said these explained why the floors of the houses are hollowed and have sank, cracked and in several cases, collapsed. They said rainwater from several typhoons that struck Central Luzon in July softened the ground and damaged the houses' floors.

The residents said no one was reported hurt because they had long been alerted on the risks of living in those units.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER from the PPMO showed that each unit in San Isidro cost P85,124. It cost the MPC at least P50,584 to build the same units in Madapdap and P52,269 in Sta. Lucia, documents showed.

The Department of Budget and Management, which handles the recovered funds of the MPC, gave the Army brigade P562.5 million to finish 2,000 houses in San Isidro and 500 units in Bulaon.

A comparison showed the government spent more for fewer houses at the San Isidro project.

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Team formed to end floods in C. Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—President Macapagal-Arroyo formed a multi-agency task force that would recommend and oversee a "permanent solution" to flooding in Pampanga and Bataan, where the major rivers of Central Luzon drain out.

The President appointed Commissioner Roque Magno of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board to head the task force. Members are officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) and the Philippine Army's 51st Engineering Brigade.

Only short-term anti-flood measures, like desilting and dredging, are being undertaken to ease serious floods in the two provinces, task force officials said during their first meeting here on Monday.

Without judging the efficiency of desilting and dredging works, the officials, however, agreed that these interventions were not enough.

Controversies have hounded such projects due to their use of huge funds—totaling P563 million from the defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission—and because of their poor if not spurious implementation.

Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan, Phivolcs chief, said efforts to address siltation downstream of the Guagua-Pasac river and the Pampanga River must be given priority.

The Guagua-Pasac river, which heads out to the Manila Bay, is the drainer of four tributaries from Tarlac, Angeles City and the rest of western and eastern Pampanga.

All rivers of Nueva Ecija and Bulacan head to Manila Bay through the Pampanga River.

The coastal towns of Pampanga, Bataan and Bulacan, which straddle the mouths of these rivers, have experienced floods that last for months after the 1991 eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo silted the tributaries with volcanic sediments.

Alfredo Tolentino, DPWH regional director, said efforts were limited to the clearing of creeks and drainages at the municipal level.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Mel Tiangco with some beneficiaries of Bisig Bayan.

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Conversion of power plant urged

CONCERNED citizens here have urged the National Power Corp. (Napocor) to convert the Calaca coal-fired power plant into a gas-fired facility to stop alleged mercury pollution in the community.

The residents issued the call following reports that the Senate environment committee chaired by Sen. Robert Jaworski will conduct a public hearing on health hazards posed by toxic emissions from coal-fired plants.

The 600-megawatt Calaca power plant has long been denounced by many environmental groups for allegedly "poisoning the community without the residents knowing it."

In previous interviews, Napocor president Jesus Alcordo admitted the power firm has been encountering problems with Calaca power plant's emissions system.

The plant has been in operation for the last 18 years and still has seven more years to go until 2009, the Napocor said.

Greenpeace said it recently discovered that the power plant has been spewing deadly smoke.

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Gov't rushing peace pact

From page A1

proposed peace agreement.

Asked to describe the prospects of having a political settlement to the 34-year-old communist insurgency, Bello said: "It is pregnant with possibilities."

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. shared Bello's optimism.

De Venecia said it was "only a matter of time" before a final peace agreement with the NDF, the underground umbrella organization that includes the CPP, could be sealed.

De Venecia, who had conducted back channel talks with Sison and NDF chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni in The Hague, said three preliminary agreements could be signed in the next three to four weeks.

"I am confident that the peace talks will succeed and that a final peace agreement will be signed in the next few months," De Venecia said in an interview.

He said the two panels were in the "final stages" of drafting three agreements. He was referring to political, economic and constitutional reforms. "The signing of an omnibus agreement is only a matter of time," he said.

Ms Macapagal earlier directed the government panel to craft a single peace pact with its NDF counterpart instead of coming up with a series of agreements based on specific issues.

The NDF rejected the proposal, as it would violate previous arrangements worked out with the Ramos administration on how the talks should be conducted.

So far, the two panels had come up with a comprehensive agreement on human rights and international humanitarian law. This was supposed to be followed by separate agreements on social justice, economic reforms, political reforms and a final one on the disposition of forces.

With the formal talks suspended, the President had designated Norberto Gonzales and Silvestre Afable as her "back channel" negotiators with the NDF.

Gonzales is the presidential adviser for special concerns and Afable, a former undersecretary for the peace process, is the head of the Presidential Management Staff.

De Venecia, who talked with Sison only last month, said it was about time the government and NDF panels put an end to the cycle of "fight, talk, fight, talk."

"This fight, talk, fight, talk should come to an end like Panmunjom so that we can concentrate on completing the agreement and have cessation and demobilization of forces," De Venecia said.

Panmumjom is the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, where the two warring sides also hold United Nations-brokered talks.

Decommission the NPA

De Venecia said that when a final peace accord was in place, the NPA could be phased out and groups belonging to the extreme Left could emerge as "genuine political parties."

The two sides, however, should take confidence-building measures to keep the signing of a peace accord on track, according to the Speaker.

De Venecia said the NPA should not carry out its threat to bomb power installations and other government targets.

"This will be the most important confidence-building measure they can take," he said.

Asked what the government could give in return, he said the provision of socioeconomic and poverty alleviation programs in depressed areas would be a concrete confidence-building step.

Bello told the INQUIRER that he was able to talk to his NDF counterparts last month and that the rebel negotiators were "open" to the possibility of entering into a final peace agreement.

"We've come up with a formulation to which they are open," Bello said, declining to provide details.

"We will present the draft of this final peace agreement to the President as soon as we complete it and we'll be guided by her directives," Bello said.

Daughter not like father, says Tito

By Christine Herrera

ARE the Macapagal presidencies a case of like father, like daughter?

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who has served in the administrations of both the late President Diosdado Macapagal and his daughter, President Macapagal-Arroyo, does not think so.

In an open forum with members of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap) at the Mandarin hotel yesterday, Guingona provided glimpses of comparison in his relationship with the two Presidents.

He said the father "cared and knew how to listen, and to accept when told that he was wrong." They could also joke and laugh together, and although "much older" than he, the father listened to what he had to say.

The father also treated him and other subordinates as an "equal," he said.

"I was much younger than the father at the time. Now, I am much older than the daughter," Guingona said.

But the age gap did not deter him from telling the father what he felt was right for the country.

"I can easily joke with (the father) and tell him he was wrong or he was right," the Vice President said. "He could do the same thing to me. He cared to listen. And we could laugh about the problems together."

In the case of the incumbent, he said: "We respect each other. I respect her. I think she respects me."

This remark drew a laugh from the Focap members.

Pressed to say more, Guingona said: "She . . . " And he paused, drawing yet another laugh.

"Maybe it has to do with the generation gap," he said, adding: "Well, in her case, I am more careful. I am more careful, period."

Corruption

Guingona said corruption was "one of the evil factors" that retarded the progress of the country.

He said that while the administration appeared bent on going after corrupt officials, the effort would be useless in the face of weak law enforcement.

"Corruption will continue because they can get away with it, anyway," he said.

Guingona also said the President should do something about poverty in the countryside rather than keeping the military busy going after insurgents.

He said it was poverty that was pushing insurgents to take up arms against the government.

According to Guingona, it is public knowledge that he had "honest differences" with the President.

Despite these differences, however, he vowed to continue speaking up on national issues and to look after the interest of the country.

He said that before he and the President parted ways and had a one-on-one talk in Davao last July 2, he told her that he would "support certain programs."

"Since then, we haven't talked," he disclosed.

Guingona, Ms Macapagal's former foreign secretary, quit the post last month.

Recuperation

While he promised not to fade away and to make his voice heard, Guingona said this would probably have to wait another month or two because he was recuperating from an eye operation.

He said he had to undergo surgery because his left eye was damaged when hit by a tennis ball in one of his games.

The Focap members tried to elicit reactions from him on national issues but each time, Guingona would say: "Let me answer you after my vacation. Promise, I will."

Veep cautions gov't on moves vs Reds

By Christine Herrera

VICE President Teofisto Guingona Jr. warned the government about adopting the US "first strike policy" against terrorists on the communist-led New People's Army, saying this will lead to more bloodshed similar to the dark years of martial law.

"Might does not make right," Guingona told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines yesterday at a breakfast forum.

Guingona said the basic premise of the presence of the Americans in the country starting October this year was the training of Filipino soldiers belonging to light reaction companies on how to handle the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"I cannot say what is the worst-case scenario but this preemptive strike policy of the United States means that it can launch the first strike against terrorists whether they are on a separate sovereign land or on the islands," the Vice President said.

"In essence, its policy is that the best defense is offense," he said.

Guingona likened the Filipino rebels to a black sheep.

"I earlier told the President that when there is a black sheep in the family it is the obligation of the father and the family to discipline that black sheep. It is not incumbent on the family to invite a foreigner or a neighbor to join in the disciplining of the black sheep," he said.

Guingona said no matter how bad the Filipino was he should not be shot at by foreigners. "The preemptive strike policy should not be adopted here," he said.

He urged the government to pursue the peace process with the NPA instead of working on crushing them.

Guingona said poverty was the root cause of strife in the country.

"Five million people are unemployed, 5 million are underemployed and 30 million people are considered poor in this country. If the poor and victims of injustice feel neglected, it is easy for them to be tempted to join an underground organization," he said.

Caregivers' turn to receive all the caring

From page A1

bomb blast," Rosario lamented.

Tonight, Rebecca, 39, is coming home to an unfinished house that she will never finish. On Aug. 4, she was one of nine victims of a Palestinian suicide bomber in northern Israel. Inside a packed bus, she was standing next to the bomber together with another Filipina working as a caregiver, Adelina Cunanan.

Their mangled remains contained in hermetically sealed coffins will arrive tonight aboard Lufthansa Airlines Flight LH 744.

Bayanihan spirit

In Minalin, Pampanga, Adelina's hometown, the community spirit is pervasive. On Thursday, the Army's 51st Engineering Brigade began repairing the dirt road leading to the chapel of Barangay San Francisco de Javier where the wake will be held, according to Mayor Edgar Flores.

Flooded in low-lying portions and muddy in many sections, the 3-km road gives any traveler a bumpy, perilous ride.

Following tradition, the parents of Adelina wanted the wake held at the village's chapel rather than at the centuries-old Sta. Monica Church at the town plaza, where floodwaters had subsided, Flores said.

Her parents, Pablo and Inez Lagunilla, had originally planned the wake in their house but water there is still waist deep.

At the half-finished chapel built from donations, only the altar is dry. The few pews that are there still stand on 6 inches of high water.

Neighbors and relatives of the 43-year-old Filipino caregiver have placed wooden planks leading to the altar. The families in the neighborhood have lent plastic chairs and tables. A huge tent has been set up at the chapel's front lawn to accommodate what is expected to be an overflow crowd of mourners.

Adelina's relatives went the rounds of poultry farms on Thursday to buy chicken for meals to be served for the duration of the wake.

Too late the heroine

Municipal councilors are convening on Friday to approve a resolution hailing Adelina as a "modern-day heroine."

Flores said streamers welcoming "her final homecoming" and hailing "her courage to work under perilous circumstances" are being prepared.

PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

"MAMA is coming home," Rebecca's favorite nephew Leonardo is saying as he waits with his grandmother Rosario for her homecoming.

Like Rosario, Adelina's mother is sorrowing that she will not even see her daughter's body.

"I wanted to see her beautiful face. I will miss her happy smile," she said.

"What pains us more is the way she died. We won't even be able to see her burned remains," lamented Rebecca's mother Rosario.

Rosario was about to dissolve tears all over again but no tears came. "My tears have dried up since dawn last Monday when Febe called us and said Rebecca was not just hospitalized, but she was among the victims killed by the suicide bomber."

Like her own son

Febe is Rebecca's older sister who has been working as a caregiver in Israel two and half years ahead of her. Her only son, Leonardo Manposte, is Rebecca's favorite nephew.

Even 3-year-old Leonardo is aware of the bustle of the homecoming preparations.

"*Uuwi na si Mama* (Mama is coming home)," Leonardo was saying but he was not referring to Febe, his own mother. He was referring to Rebecca, the aunt he loved like his own mother.

The boy, who suffers from congenital heart disease, has been in Rebecca's care since his mother left for Israel when Leonardo was barely a year old.

"It was Rebecca's love for Leonard that moved her to work as caregiver in Israel to finance the surgery for the boy," Rosario said, "She loved the boy so much because she never had her own child. She also wanted to help her Ate Febe and us."

Rebecca and her common-law husband Pepito, 68, who died from a lung disease worsened by his diabetes six months ago, never had a child.

Rebecca was too broke to come home for her husband's funeral six months ago.

"Rebecca's plan after her contract expires in June 2003 was to put up a restaurant," her older sister Erlinda Geranzi, 44, said. "She was a good cook. Whenever she visited us, she cooked her specialty *kare-kare* and *pansit palabok*, her and Pepito's favorite dishes," Erlinda said.

Rebecca went to Israel on June 11, 2001. Her contract was to end next year.

Bad news

According to Erlinda who lives with their mother Rosario, Febe called them on Sunday night and told them of the suicide bomber's attack.

"Febe just told us that Rebecca was in the hospital. She didn't tell us right away that she was killed. We were already worried then, and we cried while we were praying for Rebecca," Erlinda said, "Febe broke the news to us slowly. She called us again at dawn last Monday and told us that Rebecca was among those killed. She was just beside Adelina Cunanan, the one nearest to the suicide bomber when the bomb exploded."

Rosario said some people from the Department of Social Welfare and Development had been visiting the family since Monday.

"They told me that if we wanted help, we should just call them and they are ready to help us," Rosario said.

When Rebecca's remains arrive from Israel, Rosario said she would not go to the airport. Only her daughters Erlinda, Maricon, Elezer, and son Rolando will be there.

"I will just wait here with Leonard," Rosario said, I don't think I can stand looking at the box carrying my daughter's body. Up to now I still can't accept her tragic death."

Rebecca will be buried in the Bongabong town public cemetery, next to her father's grave.

The Minalin cemetery, about 5 km from the Lagunilla's home, is still flooded but Adelina's father wants his daughter buried there so he and his wife can visit her grave regularly.

3 cops shot dead . . .

From page A1

The attack came after exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison called on the New People's Army (NPA) to step up attacks in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to redeploy more soldiers against them.

The President announced on Monday that she had ordered troops fighting the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in Basilan and Sulu to be redeployed against the 11,500-member NPA.

At the Philippine National Police headquarters in Quezon City, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. directed police units in the provinces to brace for NPA attacks.

"We have given our orders. The units on the ground have been warned, and they have been implementing their contingency plan. It's in cooperation with the armed forces and local government units," Ebdane told reporters.

But Chief Supt. George Aliño, Cordillera Autonomous Region police director, clarified reports that the NPA staged the ambush.

Not NPA

"There are only two groups that have strong motives to kill the policemen and the NPA is not included," he told the INQUIRER.

Aliño said Lubuagan Vice Mayor Corey Dickpus and suspected robbery gang leader Willy Sagasag could be behind the ambush.

He said Kalinga police were closely watching Dickpus for several months as the vice mayor had been wanted for the killing of five Pangasinan traders in Sitio Danggoy in Lubuagan eight years ago.

The government has offered a P1-million reward to anyone who can give information leading to Dickpus' arrest.

"The police have tried to arrest Dickpus several times but the town people are protecting him," Aliño said.

Aliño identified the fatalities as Insp. Nestor Miranda, P01 Arthur Ambatcan and P02 Nestor Mahiway, all belonging to the Kalinga police. Their car fell into a 20-meter deep ravine after its driver, Ambatcan, was shot in the head.

Supt. Antonio Gumerang, who led the Kalinga policemen in the operation, was wounded in the head and thigh.

Gumerang, who was wearing a bulletproof vest, was treated at the Kalinga Provincial Hospital in Tabuk town and was declared out of danger. Two other policemen, identified as P03 Aurelio Bitanga and Insp. Abraham Galingan, sustained bruises.

The wounded policemen saw Dickpus with 15 armed men a kilometer from where they were ambushed, according to Aliño.

Some of Dickpus' men were a few meters from where the vice mayor was standing as he waited for the police mobile car, Aliño said.

He said police were also looking into the involvement of Sagasag, whose robbery gang was believed to be operating in the Cordillera and Cagayan Valley, after he sent death threats to the Kalinga police for the killing of a gang member, Ibot Palawag, on July 19. Palawag is a native of Barangay Danggoy in Lubuagan.

Surrender

In Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, 10 NPA rebels turned themselves in to authorities. They were presented yesterday to Gen. Roy A. Cimatu, Armed Forces chief of staff, on his visit to the Army's 204th Infantry Brigade.

Cimatu stressed the need to "strengthen maneuvers" against the NPA.

In the Hague, Sison questioned the government's capability to crush the NPA.

"The Macapagal regime cannot unleash all-out war with impunity," Sison said in a statement, a day after he clarified that he had not "ordered" the NPA to topple electrical towers and lines.

Sison said the Communist Party of the Philippines, the National Democratic Front and the NPA would be tougher to deal with than the Abu Sayyaf because they are "a nationwide revolutionary movement of millions of people in both urban and rural areas."

He said Ms Macapagal, taking the cue from Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, had boasted that Abu Sayyaf had been decimated and that it was time to concentrate all available military strength on the NPA.

"The two of them are insinuating that the nationwide all-out war against the NPA is going to be much easier, much cheaper and much more successful than going after the small bandit gang Abu Sayyaf on a tiny island," Sison said.

"But the truth is that the joint military campaign of two US battalions and 14 puppet battalions in Basilan and elsewhere has been a colossal failure."

Sison said the "CIA-created" Abu Sayyaf remained intact and, according to Cimatu, even replenishing itself with fresh recruits.

"In their long occupation of Basilan, the US and puppet troops killed and injured far more innocent civilians than members of the bandit gang," Sison said. ***With reports from Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and TJ Burgonio and Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila***

Guingona hits US 'first-strike' policy vs terror

From page A1

In a speech at the US Military Academy on June 1, Bush had warned that his "war on terrorism" might often require "pre-emptive" military action. This warning was widely read as preparing the ground for an American invasion of Iraq, to oust Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, who replaced Guingona at the DFA, said he was not alarmed by the prospect of war erupting anew in Iraq because the country was ready to evacuate all 147 Filipino workers in Iraq.

He warned Saddam against going to war with the United States, however. "Saddam should better be careful in asking for a war because the US might give him that," Ople said.

Nuclear rivals

Speaking before foreign correspondents, Guingona said the "first-strike" policy would set a bad example for other countries, such as nuclear rivals India and Pakistan, and could cause massive civilian casualties.

"What example will the US give were she herself to pursue the preemptive strike policy? Would this not negate negotiations and inflame the two countries (India and Pakistan) into open conflict with nuclear consequences?"

Guingona said: "The main premise of a strike-first policy is to make the world a safer place but many fear it could only generate the opposite and breed animosity worse than that between the Israelis and the Palestinians, because might does not make right."

The Vice President said he was worried about the new doctrine's effect on the insurgency movements in the countryside.

Guingona said Balikatan, the RP-US military exercises which enter a second phase in October, could hamper the President's own efforts to negotiate a political settlement with insurgents.

The government is in peace talks with both the Communist Party of the Philippines as well as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which signed a ceasefire with the government.

"Should we not ensure that our goals for a continued peace process with the rebels be ensured rather than lead us to another civil strife or bloodshed?" Guingona said.

The Vice President also said that while the first US military mission was completed without the Americans getting into combat, "if they come here with a different policy, we don't know what will happen."

"So I'm hopeful that the preemptive strike policy will not be the one adopted."

No rupture

Antonio Torralba, a professor at the University of Asia and the Pacific, said Guingona's comments should not be "misinterpreted" as signaling a rupture between the United States and the Philippines.

"Objectively speaking, (Guingona) is enunciating one universal truth, in that in all of our actions we should be more circumspect," Torralba said.

At the DFA, Ople told reporters that his department was "in close touch with our Philippine Embassy in Baghdad."

"The Philippine government has its contingency plans ready to protect our workers in the Middle East," he said, adding that an evacuation plan was in place to evacuate 117 Filipino workers in Baghdad and 30 others in northern Iraq.

"I don't want to be alarmist but the Philippines is ready to bring to safety the Filipinos in Iraq," he said.

Asked if Manila would publicly back Washington in case of a war with Baghdad, Ople merely said: "That's hypothetical."

Ople allayed fears that the country would be dragged into the war between Iraq and the United States being the latter's ally in its fight against terrorism.

There are about 750,000 Filipino workers in the Middle East, most of them based in Saudi Arabia, officials said.

Ople also said the country should not be worried about a possible oil shortage.

"Our petroleum products are sourced from Kuwait and Saudi (Arabia) so this will not be affected," Ople said. ***Reports from AFP and Christine Herrera***

It's final: Ombudsman can sue Doy

From page A1

the high court on April 12. Both rulings declared that the National Centennial Commission, which Laurel had chaired, was a public office and thus the Ombudsman had authority to investigate it.

The July 1 ruling should have been a final one, but Laurel filed a motion for clarification on July 10. In his second motion, he asked if his election as chair of the Philippine Centennial Exposition '98 Corp. (Expocorp) "converted" the latter into a government owned or controlled corporation (GOCC).

However, the high court declined Laurel's "invitation" to "clarify these questions," saying that his status as a public officer had no relation to the nature of Expocorp.

The SC also refused to be embroiled in a debate with Laurel over the legal question of whether all private citizens who accepted membership in the NCC also become public officers.

"The first is irrelevant in the disposition of this case; the second is reiterative of petitioner's arguments in his motion for reconsideration," the SC declared.

Innocence professed

Laurel, who had professed innocence, had questioned the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman to investigate him because, he said, he was no longer a government official when he chaired the NCC.

Laurel is the most prominent personality to be indicted in connection with the Expo scam. Earlier, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto charged several officials of the Bases Conversion Development Authority and the Clark Development Authority with the anomalous construction of the Mabalacat-Clark road, which was part of the Expo project.

As for the liability of former President Fidel V. Ramos, Desierto said the Ombudsman could not yet rule on the matter since the Commission on Audit had yet to submit a complete audit report on the Centennial Expo project. Desierto retired from government service last week.

On April 12, the SC ruled that the Ombudsman had the authority to charge Laurel for the alleged bloating of the cost of the Expo's Freedom Ring, from P248 million to P1.2 billion. The earlier decision also lifted the preliminary injunction issued by the SC on Sept. 24 last year.

In that decision, the SC said it was not the proper body to decide on the other legal issues raised by the former Vice President. "Obviously, this proceeding is not the proper forum to settle the issues lest we preempt the trial court from resolving them," it said.

The SC stressed that the NCC had performed executive functions, and noted that the President, upon whom the executive power is vested, created NCC by executive order. "Clearly, the NCC performs sovereign functions. It is, therefore, a public office, and petitioner, as its chair, is a public officer."

However, the high court declined to discuss other legal issues such as those related to the Expocorp and whether Laurel received compensation as NCC chair or not.

Erring justices?

Laurel then said in a statement that he "felt very strongly that the three justices erred in their decision."

Laurel was referring to Associate Justices Santiago Kapunan, Reynato Puno and Consuelo Ynarez-Santiago, members of the SC Special Division who had ruled against him.

Laurel pointed out that the ruling of the three justices that the NCC was a "public office" failed to take into account the fact that the SC itself designated two of its associate justices to serve in the NCC as members.

"If the NCC was a 'public office,' why did the SC itself name two of its members to the NCC? In so doing, did not the SC point the accusing finger to itself because the Constitution prohibits the court from designating any member to any other government agency?"

But in its resolution written by Associate Justice Santiago M. Kapunan on July 1, the SC branded Laurel's arguments "irrelevant."

"The issue in this case is whether petitioner, as chair of the NCC, is a public officer under the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman," said the SC.

"Assuming, as petitioner proposes, that the designation of other members of the NCC runs counter to the Constitution, it does not make petitioner, as NCC chair, less a public officer. Such 'serious constitutional repercussions' do not reduce the force of the rationale behind this court's decision," the SC added.

Graft charges

On Dec. 4, 2000, Desierto announced the filing of graft charges against Laurel with the Sandiganbayan. Laurel filed a petition for certiorari to block the Ombudsman's investigation. After Laurel filed his petition, Desierto deferred the actual filing of the complaint in deference to the SC.

Subsequently, on Sept. 24, 2001, the SC First Division issued a temporary restraining order to prevent Desierto from initiating criminal charges against him.

In a resolution dated December 2000, Desierto said Expocorp was organized on April 16, 1996 initially as a government-owned joint venture corporation to oversee and implement the exposition project of the centennial celebration.

Out of the original P1.9-billion budget for the exposition project, about P248 million was allocated to the Freedom Ring construction to house a 35,000-seat amphitheater and a performance stage covered with a fabric roof, he said.

Desierto said that Laurel allegedly caused undue injury to the government and gave unwarranted advantage to a private party when he awarded the Freedom Ring project to Asia Construction Development Authority (AK) "without the benefit of a competitive public bidding."

"Further it was found that that the notice to proceed was prematurely issued in December 1996 when the contract was only signed on April 4, 1997," he said.

Thus, Desierto ruled that Laurel could be held criminally liable since he was primarily responsible for all decisions and actions in connection with the Freedom Ring project as chair of the NCC and Expocorp.

14 killed in rebel mortar attack in Colombia

From page A1

donned Colombia's red, yellow and blue presidential sash and addressed Congress, footsteps away from the palace. In a prepared speech, he promised a firm hand with insurgents and said he would negotiate with them only if they laid down their arms.

"We are offering democracy, so that arms can be replaced by argument," said Uribe. He turned pale when officials took him aside after the ceremony and told him what had happened.

Uribe narrowly survived an April assassination attempt by rebels belonging to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). His father was killed in the 1980s by the most powerful guerrilla army in Latin America.

The 17,000-strong peasant army, which claims to be fighting for socialist reform, has thrown down a gauntlet to Uribe's promises of law and order by warning all the country's mayors to resign or face being killed.

Death in shantytown

In the Cartucho shantytown, the dead lay mangled just off a wet, garbage-strewn street. Police fired shots into the air to secure the area, pushing back homeless people and drug addicts so forensic teams could count the dead.

At one site, a mortar crashed into a boarding house, decapitating one man and killing seven other people.

Forensic teams placed numbers on the dead, and snapped photos. There were small puddles of blood on the sidewalk.

"I was next door, I don't know why I'm still alive," said a woman who gave her name as Isabel. "I heard this 'fsssssss' and then a huge explosion."

Antonio, who also gave only his first name, said the bombs all hit at roughly the same moment. He refused to blame the rebels, as he rolled and smoked a marijuana cigarette in front of the police, grinning.

The rebels managed to launch the mortar attack despite elaborate security measures. About 20,000 troops were on the streets, Air Force jets patrolled the skies, and the city's international airport was closed for the afternoon.

In the days leading up to Uribe's inauguration, FARC rebels launched attacks in the lawless countryside, including mortar-shelling an airport in the eastern Arauca province. At least 36 were killed in clashes with the Army on Tuesday.

Dignitaries

About 600 foreign dignitaries, including US drug czar John Walters and Spain's Crown Prince Felipe, listened to a youth orchestra in Congress as pandemonium reigned nearby.

Other prominent guests were the presidents of Venezuela, Argentina, Ecuador, Panama and Peru, and the vice presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Colombian authorities said they were investigating the possibility that the mortar attack had been carried out by fighters trained by the Irish Republican Army.

Three alleged IRA men were arrested last year in Colombia. They were suspected of training FARC guerrillas in bomb and mortar techniques.

Bogota police said they confiscated about 100 mortars on Wednesday in raids on suspected rebel safehouses.

Pledges

Uribe, a former provincial governor, has pledged to boost military spending, fight corruption and boost social programs to reduce the poverty feeding a conflict that kills thousands of people every year.

Uribe's critics, including many human rights organizations, worry about his plans to form a million-strong network of civilian informers. They recall the growth of right-wing death squads during the time he was governor of Antioquia.

Uribe has consistently dismissed claims he had links with the extreme-right paramilitary Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), which Washington brands a terrorist organization.

AUC, FARC and the smaller leftist rebel National Liberation Army (ELN) are all on Washington's list of terrorist organizations. The three groups have been accused of civilian massacres, kidnappings and links to the illegal drug trade.

Close to Washington

Uribe's hardline rhetoric resonates in Washington and he is a key proponent of US aid. The United States has provided more than $1.5 billion in military assistance in the past four years to fight drug trafficking, but Uribe wants Washington to become more involved in the war against rebels.

In his inauguration speech, Uribe said he wanted the United Nations to mediate with the rebels but added the new peace talks would only start if they laid down their arms.

A stern disciplinarian whose political mantra is work, work, work, Uribe has generated enormous expectations among war-weary Colombians.

Many are hoping he will bury the memory of departing President Andres Pastrana, whose efforts to bring peace through negotiations with the rebels collapsed in February.

Challenges

He faces formidable challenges in his four-year term.

With powerful armed groups controlling vast areas of the country, unemployment hovering at 16 percent, booming drug and kidnapping industries and a sluggish economy, Colombia has rarely seemed in a worse shape.

Some analysts warn that Uribe, a longtime Liberal Party member who ran as an independent candidate, runs the risk of wasting the opportunity provided by his early popularity on a dangerous fight with Congress.

Lawmakers are promising a showdown if the new president goes ahead with plans for a referendum asking Colombians whether Congress should be dissolved and replaced by a one-chamber legislature to save money. ***Reuters***

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ITALIA GROUP

THE SUPER COP is at it again—making a show at Camp Crame of criminals arrested by the police, this time around them are alleged members of the Bucala kidnap-for-ransom gang. ERIK ARAZAS

There's no stopping GMA

From page A1

crime, and that she had "every reason" to stand by the PNP "as they deliver on their commitment to work harder against criminals."

"I will not relent in my crusade for a morally upright and lawful society," she said. "On the ground I'm happy to hear from a lot of feedback that the results of police action are being talked about by the citizens."

In reaction to the controversy stirred by her presentation of crime suspects, the President said: "Debate is free in a democratic society."

Nonetheless, she said, she would "continue to make the rounds of law enforcement agencies and present criminals before the public," and "follow it up with speedy prosecution."

"This will not abate until we have shown a clear manifestation in our seriousness and sincerity in this campaign," she added.

Last Wednesday, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the President's public presentation of suspects was part of a media strategy to ensure maximum exposure for her administration's war against crime.

But her high-profile stint has been marked by a string of erroneous announcements—a result of *kuryente* (false information in local journalists' parlance) relayed to her.

Checked and processed

The President ordered Palace officials Wednesday afternoon to make sure that only information that went through "complete staff work" would reach her, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

This means that the head of the concerned office is required to verify that the information to be given to Ms Macapagal has been "checked and duly processed," he said, adding:

"I believe all the persons processing the information are now duly guided."

For the recent blunders that resulted from *kuryente* in the past three weeks, no head has rolled apart from that of a minor appointments official who was sacked last week.

Malacañang even defended Reynaldo Wycoco, director of the National Bureau of Investigation, who was involved in two *kuryente* cases: suspected kidnap leader Faizal Marohombsar's supposed surrender to authorities and the presentation of bank cashier Acsa Ramirez as a suspect in a tax diversion scam that she herself had exposed. ***(See story on Page A1.)***

"The assessment of the Palace, as far as (Ramirez) is concerned, is that there has been correct information given out by Director Wycoco," Bunye said.

He said he had yet to meet with Wycoco, Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco and Norberto Gonzales, the President's adviser on special concerns, to settle the blunder regarding Marohombsar.

Just three weeks into his job and Bunye has learned to play safe—or too safe, Palace reporters believe.

Imposing a new policy that discourages "scoops" or exclusive stories, he said he would not confirm or deny "sensitive" reports involving Malacañang as an anonymous Palace source.

He said he would only answer questions asked during the daily news briefings aired over Radyo ng Bayan, and would not entertain reporters in his office one on one.

Earlier, he banned "ambush" or follow-up questions after the briefings.

"All I'm saying is you won't get an exclusive from me," Bunye, a former reporter, said at yesterday's briefing.

He did not say whether the recent *kuryente* gave rise to the new policy.

But by way of explanation, he said: "All information will be freely given to everybody, and we will not give special attention to any particular media group or reporter."

Reporters were quick to point out that Bunye in effect wanted them to share exclusive stories with the entire Palace press corps.

Bunye said they could get confirmation or denial from other Palace officials.

"As much as possible I don't want it to come from me," he said.

Armed and ready

In Camp Crame, the President said Pacer, police and military operatives arrested the members of the Lucido-Espillore group before they could carry out another kidnapping Tuesday in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

"They were armed and ready but the PNP stopped them cold," she said. "These members were arrested just as they were about to pounce on their victims. In the beginning, it was the plan of the PNP to catch them in the act, but this was considered too risky for the would-be victims."

The suspects—identified as Eufemio Lucido, 48; Pedro Motas, 43; Primitivo Panganiban, 42; Agapito Motas, 39; Alberto Olfato, 53; Reynaldo Maligalig, 40; and Pio Purificacion, 42—were supposedly nabbed while on board two vehicles.

Operatives seized a Mitsubishi Lancer sedan and a private jeep, as well as four loaded pistols, two hand grenades, a shotgun, a pair of handcuffs, two Motorola radios and two mobile phones.

"They were lucky they were arrested," said Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police.

The suspects were charged yesterday morning with brigandage and illegal possession of firearms before the Cavite provincial prosecutor's office.

Pacer, Cebu police and Aviation Security Group operatives arrested ex-PO3 Engelberto Durano, supposed leader of the Durano kidnapping group, at the Manila domestic airport as he was about to board a flight for Bacolod yesterday morning.

His arrest was backed by a warrant issued by a regional trial court in Cebu City in connection with the abduction there of one James Ryan Yu on July 23 last year.

The Durano group is among the 21 kidnap-for-ransom groups in the PNP order of battle.

Ebdane could not yet tell how many of these groups had been neutralized since Pacer was formed last June.

But the President said the arrests showed that "we are moving forward in our interdiction as well as prevention moves," and that "our intelligence resources are paying off, and that we are on the right track."

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Volleyball Grand Prix finals over IBC 13

THE THRILLING championship clash between Sydney Olympic silver medalists Russia and host nation China in the $1-million Women's World Volleyball Grand Prix 2002 will be telecast today by Viva Vintage Sports over IBC 13 starting at 5:30 p.m.

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◆ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

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SUPERLOTTO 6/49: 13 12 41 20 26 3

BATTLE OF MANILA BAY II

Espinosa to Danding: One more chance

'Ninong, hindi ko po kayo bibiguin, hindi ko bibiguin ang bansang Pilipinas'

By Percy D. Della

DALY CITY, California—Luisito Espinosa is feeling like the repairman in the Maytag commercials. He thinks that he'll probably wait forever for a call.

That's why the two-time Filipino world boxing champion is making a call himself, so to speak.

Through the INQUIRER, Luisito is appealing to his wedding sponsor, businessman and sports patron Danding Cojuangco.

Luisito is imploring the "manager, "whose name is usually on the tip of everyone's tongue when thinking of sports advocacy, to help him fight a world title fight in Manila.

For Luisito, fighting at home has an added bonus. It will afford the former two-time world champion, now based in California, a chance to visit his ailing dad he has not seen since 1998.

Listen to Luisito: "*Ninong, hindi ko po kayo bibiguin, hindi ko bibiguin ang bansang* Pilipinas. (I will not disappoint you, Ninong. I will not disappoint the Filipino nation.)"

True, Luisito's stock as a fighter has risen again since returning to the ring via an impressive second round knockout of Colombian Ever Beleno in San Jose last May.

But Luisito's manager Noel Rivera senses that no world champion in his right frame of mind—unless enticed with a huge purse—would want to rile the great fighter in Espinosa. Rivera said getting Luisito's goat in the ring is like luring a bull into a china shop.

Espinosa is targeting the winner of the World Boxing Council title go between No. 1 contender Sirimongkol Singmanassuk of Thailand and No. 2 Kenjo Nagashima (Luisito's sparring partner in Japan).

Also on the horizon is the World Boxing Association knockout king Yodsanan Nanthachai, whose plodding, slugger type is ready-made for Louie. And then there's IBF junior-lightweight champion Stevie Forbes, who may find excitement fighting outside American soil.

In boxing, a good resumé is a must. With Luisito's credential as the only Filipino to win the WBA bantamweight and WBC featherweight crowns, he is indeed qualified.

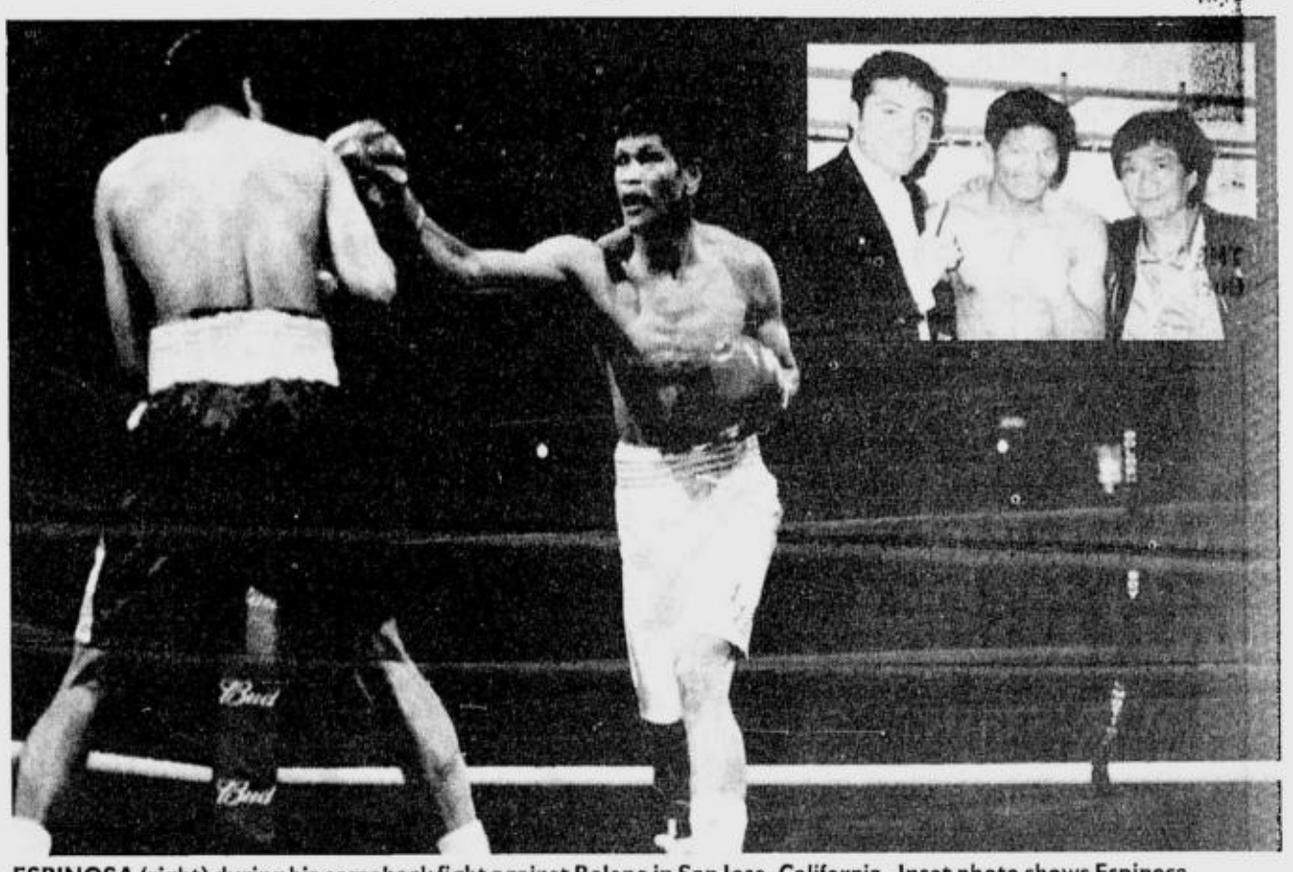
Colombian journeyman Beleno was Luisito's first victim as he moves on, and moves up in weight. He will now attempt to gain the super featherweight/junior lightweight belt–acquired and then defended 10 times by his idol, the great Gabriel "Flash" Elorde.

With Boss Danding's help, Luisito's aim to achieve that this year won't be far-fetched.

The Luneta Park, the venue of the 1998 Battle of Manila Bay where 300,000 Filipinos witnessed Espinosa soundly beat Cesar Soto for his second defense of the WBC featherweight title, will be tapped for the fight.

Luisito's mentor and Noel's father, Hermie (the brainchild of the '98 Battle) said: "The next Luisito title challenge would be a gala event for the Filipinos. Battle of Manila Bay was a resounding financial and public relations success. There's 300,000 more reasons why we should pull together and do it again."

Luisito's plea to Danding: "*Ang puso ko po ay nasa ating bayang Pilipinas. Bigyan niyo po ako ng isa pang pagkakataon.* (My heart is still in the Philippines. Please give me another chance)."



ESPINOSA (right) during his comeback fight against Beleno in San Jose, California. Inset photo shows Espinosa (middle) with the legendary Oscar Dela Hoya (extreme left) and Espinosa's mentor Hermie Rivera after the two-time world champion knocked out Beleno in the second round. NOEL RIVERA

Retuya, Jao tagged favorites

SHELL Racing's Joel Retuya and Jolet Jao aim to firm up their grip of solo leadership in their respective events as the 2002 PCSO Grand Prix stages its fourth leg tomorrow in Rosario, Batangas.

Retuya, a native of Cebu, eyes another win to fortify his bid for the 2002 Formula Toyota Cup plum against teammate Mandy Borja, Team TEC's Carlo Pastor and Victor Yap in the event sanctioned by the Automotive Association of the Philippines (formerly PMA) and sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phil., MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro, Casino Filipino, Kilton Motors Corporation and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through General Manager Ver Angelo.

The multi-titled Jao, carrying the colors of Shell Advance-Rolex Engineering, hopes to bounce back in the Expert class of the Shell Advance Super Bikes Series against RS Racing's Rod Scott and Access Plus-Ducati Manila's Toti Alberto.

Coseteng seeks 3rd straight triumph

CROWD favorite and two-time Driver of the Year Jody Coseteng guns for a third straight sweep in the Philippine National Touring Car Championship on Aug. 10-11 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

The mainstay for the Caltex Havoline-Autoplus-Red Horse team is favored in the Rounds 5 & 6 of the 2002 PCSO Grand Prix as he has swept all four races in the past two legs. He has a perfect 6.

Coseteng, who has a perfect 60 points, will be on board a Honda Civic prepared by Autoplus.

But the challenge turns tougher with three other top contenders just close behind Coseteng—his best friend Jojo Silverio (48 points), Vincent Floirendo (33 points) and Kookie Ramirez.

Ramirez snapped Coseteng's seven-racing winning streak in Round 8 of the 2002 SVI Subic Grand Prix.

PSA sets movie premiere

THE PHILIPPINE Sportswriters Association will host the sports and celebrity screening of Triple X (XXX), an action packed movie, on Aug. 19 at the Robinson's Place Manila Cinema 1.

Produced by Columbia Pictures, Triple X stars up and coming action star Vin Diesel and Samuel L. Jackson.

Doris Torres, marketing manager of Columbia Pictures, PSA President Bert Cuevas and Ambet Nabus of Earn On-Line Marketing and Production signed the contract.

Misa, Kraut target Wilson crown

THE FANCIED Philippine Columbian Association tandem of Mike Misa and Julius Kraut seek for the men's Open crown against the host club's Randy Villanueva-Hanky Lee in the finals tomorrow of the Wilson-Valle Verde Interclub Tennis Challenge.

Reaching the title match in contrasting fashions, Misa-Kraut booted out Bobby Armillo-Arnold Reyes of ETC-Pasig in straight sets despite trailing 0-4 in the second set.

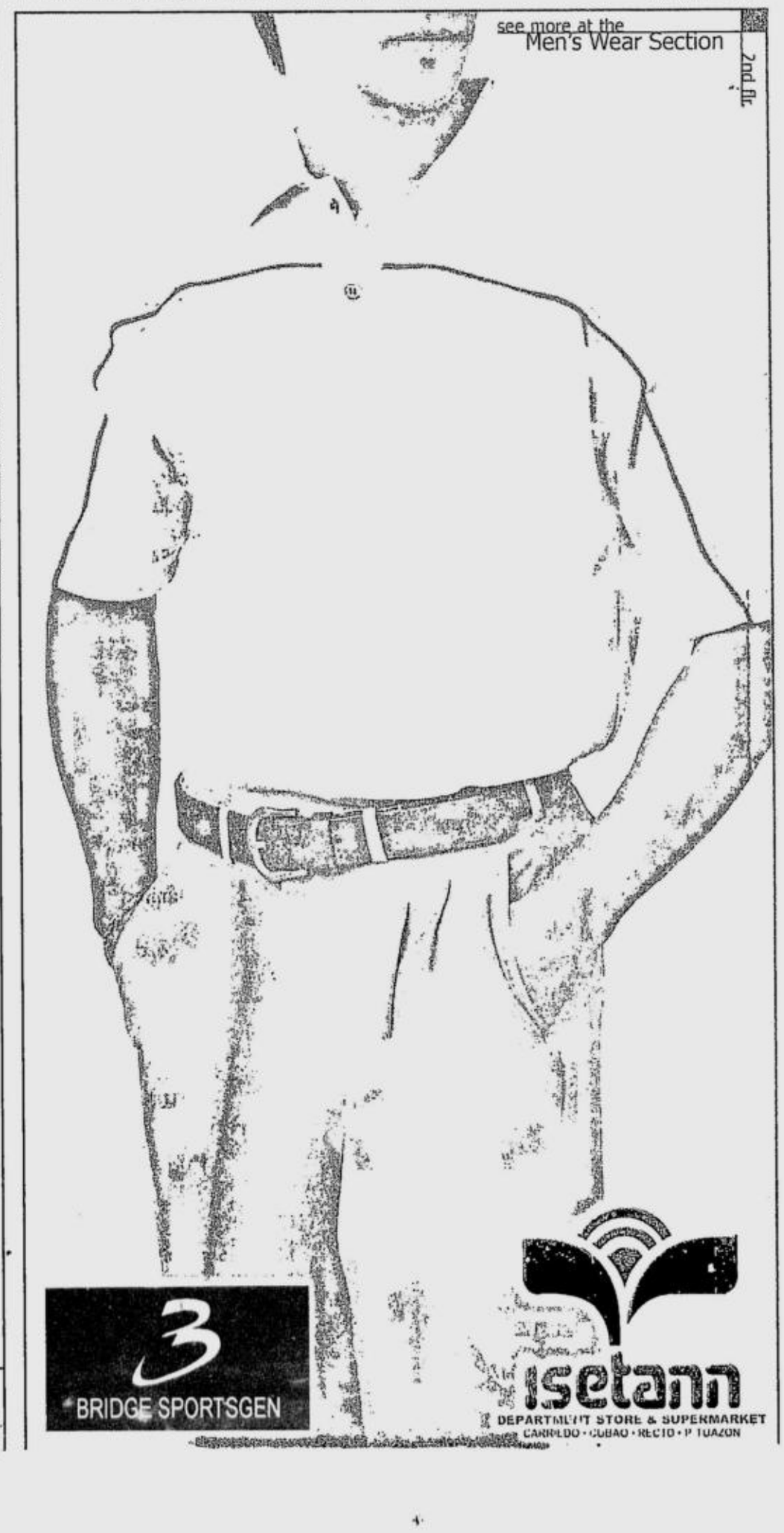
The Villanueva-Lee pair led the advance of Valle Verde bets in various divisions by shocking Raymund Suarez and Tonito Payumo.

Four other VVCC pairs benefited from the homecourt advantage as Rey Felix and Rey Orsolino (seniors), Sally Ong-Irene Chua (ladies), Orlolino-Emil Martin (35 and above) and Ed Tajoner-Angie Cruz (Class C) won their semifinal matches in the tourney sponsored chiefly by Wilson Sports Philippines.

Other sponsors of the event are Toyota Shaw, Nestle, Yellow Cab, Coca-Cola, Toby's Energizer, PLDT, Chili's Accel Sportswear, Asian Biscuits and Kamiseta.

Tournament coordinators Nilo Natividad announced that tomorrow will be a family and tennis day at Valle Verde. Wilson will also conduct fun games, give away raffle prizes during the awards night and fellowship cocktails.

Jong Arcano



Andre wins; Pete, Tim eliminated

CINCINNATI, Ohio—Andre Agassi and Lleyton Hewitt both cruised into the last 16 of the Cincinnati Masters tournament on Wednesday, but Pete Sampras and Tim Henman are out after an eventful day at the $2.95 million event.

Agassi blasted his way into the third round with a one-sided 6-0 6-2 demolition of Argentina's Guillermo Coria.

Coria, who came through qualifying, froze in the face of an onslaught from the 32-year-old as Agassi needed just 19 minutes to whip through the first set and it took Coria 32 minutes to win a single game.

"Tonight I was really bringing the pace of my shots to him and he's a guy who needs a little bit more time," Agassi said.

There was good news too for American veteran Michael Chang, whose 5-7 7-6 6-0 second-round win over Fernando Vicente marked the first time he had won consecutive matches since this time last year.

Sampras, the 13-times grand slam champion, lost to big-serving Australian qualifier Wayne Arthurs, while Henman, who beat defending champion Gustavo Kuerten in the first round, lost 7-6 6-2 to Fernando Gonzalez of Chile.

Former world number one Sampras, who has not won a title since Wimbledon in 2000, was knocked out by Arthurs 4-6 6-3 7-6.

In Los Angeles, Serena Williams, competing for the first time as the world's No. 1 ranked player, advanced to the third round of the $585,000 WTA Los Angeles Open, defeating Russian Lina Krasnoroutskaya 6-4, 6-2 here on Wednesday.

"I am happy to be back," said Williams, sporting a silver crown on her head symbolic of her status as the new queen of tennis.

The 20-year-old American admitted she looked rusty in her first outing since winning Wimbledon.

Last month she supplanted older sister Venus as the world's top-ranked women's tennis player.

"Getting to No. 1 was always one of my goals," said Serena. "But there were times out there tonight where I was asking myself 'why am I playing like this? I am No. 1 in the world'."

ASEAN WRESTLING

Pinoys bag 4 gold medals

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MEDAL STANDINGS

Standings	G	S	B
Vietnam	4	3	1
RP Team A	2	2	3
RP Team B	2	1	2
Indonesia	0	2	1
Thailand	0	0	1
Cambodia	0	0	0
Malaysia	0	0	0

FOUR Filipino wrestlers, led by Asian Games-bound Marcus Araneta Valda and Melchor Tumasis, overwhelmed their foes yesterday as the Philippines tied defending champion Vietnam with four gold medals apiece in the Greco-Roman event of the Southeast Asian Wrestling Championships.

Showing extra spring in their steps, the Filipinos relentlessly tackled their round-robin opponents to surpass their two-gold-medal performance two years ago in Bangkok to the cheers of the big crowd at the Badminton Hall of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Valda, a nephew of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, strung up four straight victories to rule the 96-kg category, besting in the final match Vietnamese favorite Ho Si Ninh.

The 21-year-old Valda, a UAAP champion, pinned Ho down to the canvas—wrestling's equivalent of a knockout in boxing—in one minute and 37 seconds to secure the gold.

"I didn't expect this kind of performance from myself, I guess the hometown crowd rooting for us really made the difference," said Valda of the RP Team A.

RP Team A's Tumasis, the most senior of the Nationals at 31, also went unbeaten in three matches in the 60-kg event, while RP Team B's Michael Baletin (74 kg) and Kirk Go (120 kg) lorded it over in their respective categories to nail the gold medal.

Nevertheless, Vietnam refused to yield the spotlight to the host country, winning four golds for itself through the slam-bang victories of Tran Van Son (51 kg), Dang Dinh Hue (56 kg), To Trung Kien (66 kg) and Can Van Thuc (84 kg).

"We know Vietnam will deliver but we are surprised with the way our boys played," said Wrestling Association of the Philippines president Gen. Manuel Ribo. "Already this is our best performance in the SEAWC and yet we still have freestyle event tomorrow (today)."

First day big winner Paulo Delos Santos failed to sustain his fire and settled for silver in the 51-kg along with Ruel Nacional in the 66-kg and Francis Villanueva in the 120-kg.

Roy Camposano, Renerio Rapisora, Ronilo Sabijon, Marciano Basas and John Esteban salvaged a bronze medal each.

Tournament format calls for a wrestler to accumulate as many victories as possible to win a gold.

The event is being sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

TUMASIS (in blue) does a headlock on Dery Zulkifli of Indonesia yesterday en route to winning the gold in the 60-kg Greco-Roman event of the Asean Wrestling Championship at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Blue Eagles, Archers suit up for a different battle at Wack Wack

THE HISTORIC rivalry among the Blue Eagles, Green Archers, and Red Lions resurfaces this coming August as their elementary, high school, college, and graduate school alumni renew hostilities on a different hardcourt.

This time the competition will be at Wack Wack's dance floor, with alumni from the different school eager to outdo each other as they dance and jam the night away on Aug. 15.

Joining the event are Ateneo, La Salle, University of the Philippines, Assumption, College of the Holy Spirit, Maryknoll, St. Scholastica, St. Paul, St. Theresa, University of Santo Tomas, Philippine Military Academy, Baguio Military Institute, Brent and International School.

Music will be provided mainly by the RJ and the New Riots, plus other surprise bands and entertainers.

Proceeds will help fund the different school foundations. Tickets are available at all Rustan's Supermarkets and Starbucks outlets.

Sports Kamp scores historic first

AFTER wooing Metro Manila shoppers with the initial installment of S&R Price Club, Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC) has scored another first with the signing of a five-year lease agreement with Sports Kamp. Envisioned to be a multisport outdoor entertainment center, Sports Kamp is the only facility of its kind to rise within the Global City and the Metro Manila area.

A modification of summer camps popular in the United States, Sports Kamp will serve as a training facility for popular league sport such as basketball, soccer, softball and baseball. It will house facilities such as baseball/softball batting cages, soccer skills obstacle course, basketball shootout hoops, a stratus ball volleyball court, tetherball courts, an outdoor maze and other innovative outdoor activity areas.

"Sports Kamp simulates the feel of rugged outdoor camps in a secure, fun, encouraging yet challenging environment. The setup provides for maximum enjoyment with lesser risks for injury. Our goal is to create a complex that will appeal not only to sports enthusiasts but also to families as an alternative venue for recreation," said project proponent Joel Jimenez (of GMA). "More importantly, the Global City's proximity to both the Makati and Ortigas CBD's suits our aim to also promote Sports Kamp as an accessible and innovative venue for corporate team building."

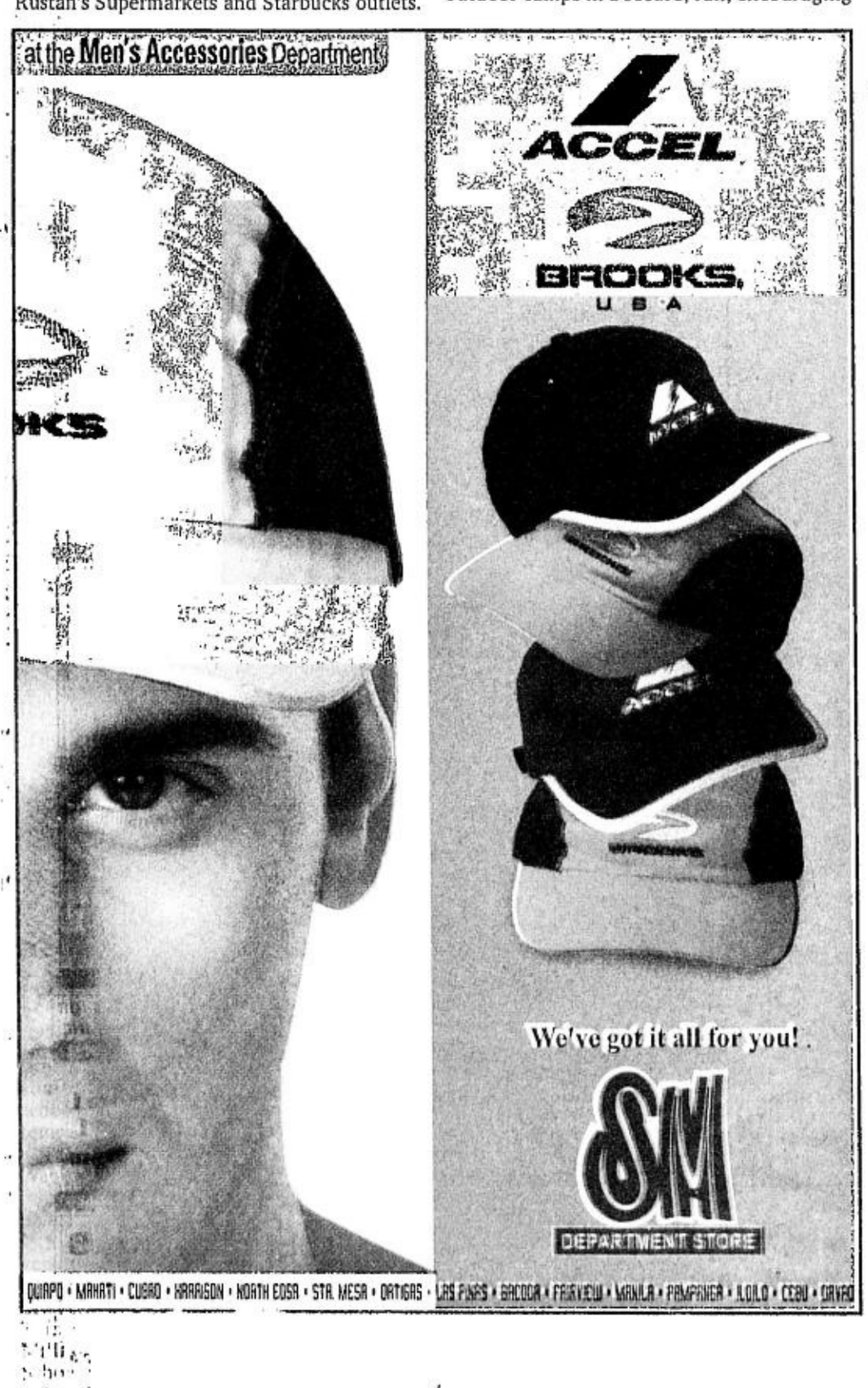
Aside from the said amenities, Sports Kamp will employ qualified personnel to provide its users with professional coaching and assistance as needed. Training packages and corporate team building programs will also be developed on a year round basis. Teaming up with Joel Jimenez is his wife Gidget and Luis Carlos Laurel of Kids at Work.

"Sports Kamp is a great complement to our existing retail and entertainment offerings like S&R Price, Bonifacio Stopover, The Fort and the Fort Square. The presence of an outdoor sports facility in the Global City is a step toward our goal of becoming a premiere retail and entertainment destination in the near future," said Reymundo S. Cochangco, vice president for commercial operations of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

Already in the final stages of design, the complex is expected to break ground by the third quarter of 2002 within PEZA accredited e-Square IT park. By the fourth quarter of 2002, Sports Kamp will be ready to serve the needs of the city's growing population and its visitors.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Estella Mamac clocked 23:15 to cop the PSC-sponsored all-women 5K run in Davao City. Also today in 1994, John Dizon fired a net 71 to bag the Class A plum in the 13th leg of the Johnnie Walker Golf Series in Cebu.



Judges Foundation prexy clarifies confusion

IT is the Philippine Judges Foundation Inc. and not the Philippine Judges Association that is set to stage a golf tournament on Sept. 27 at Wack Wack.

This clarification was made yesterday by the PJFI president, retired Court of Appeals Justice Mariano Umali, through businessman-sportsman Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, a member of the PJFI council of advisers.

Cabangon Chua said the PJA is being confused with the PJFI whose forthcoming benefit tournament has been affected by this confusion.

The PJFI, Umali explained, is a private non-profit corporation composed of retired justices and judges, with former Chief Justice Andres R. Narvasa as chair of its board of trustees. The PJA, on the other hand, is composed of active judges of the regional trial courts all over the country, headed by MRTC Judge Marino dela Cruz.

Justice Presbitero J. Velasco Jr., Supreme Court administrator, had earlier denied a statement made by one Carmelo J. Aquino that Velasco was spearheading a golf event for the benefit of the PJA. Aquino said Velasco was soliciting the sponsorship of big legal firms, an act that could compromise the objectivity of the judiciary.

"It is the PJFI and not Justice Velasco," Umali said, "that is organizing the tournament designed to raise funds for the health care benefits of retired and active members of the judiciary."

Umali also clarified that the Foundation is pushing through with the golf tournament to raise funds for a health care assistance program for retired justices and judges. He said while acting Chief Justice Josue N. Belosillo cautioned against possible "negative public perception" that the tournament might raise, he has not directly ordered the scrapping of the event.

Umali said," Velasco has absolutely nothing to do with the golf tournament. He is neither an incorporator nor a member of the PJFI."

Forest Hills tilt listing on today

REGISTRATION begins today for the Chairman's Cup at Forest Hills Golf on Sept. 14 and 15.

Close to 400 members, guests and sponsors are expected to vie for honors and prizes worth close to a million pesos in honor of club chair lawyer Ferdinand T. Santos.

According to Vic de Guzman, tournament director and Forest Hills' sports and games committee chair, the deadline for registration is on Aug. 31.

"We hope to have a bigger and better Chairman's Cup this year," said De Guzman, who, together with his sports and games committee members, will handle the tournament.

Interested members can call 6771641-43 for other details.

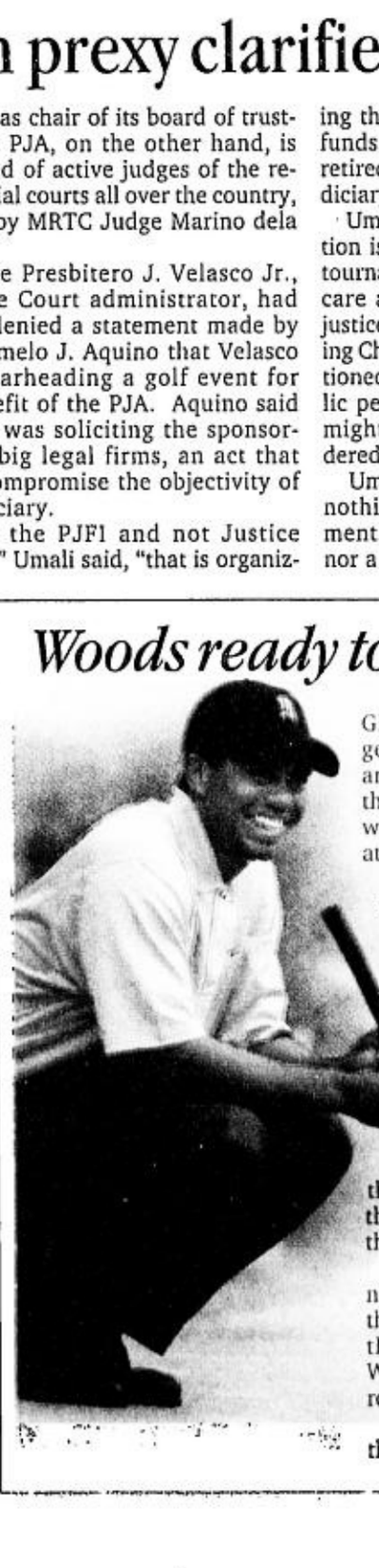
SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Western and Southern Financial Masters (Cincinnati), Early Round Coverage Day #3 at 9 a.m. (r), Day #4 at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Tour Highlights - The International at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Woods ready to play again



GRAND BLANC, Michigan—Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson are among the players making their final preparations for next week's PGA Championship here at the PGA Buick Open.

The two top-ranked players in the world will tee off here Thursday with their minds looking ahead somewhat to next week's PGA Championship at Hazeltine in Chaska, Minnesota.

Woods will be playing for the first time since his bid for an unprecedented Grand Slam came to an end at the British Open. He can become the first player in history to win three majors in a season twice.

"Three of the four, and right now, myself and (Ben) Hogan are the only ones who have ever won three in the same year," said Woods, who played a practice round at Hazeltine on Tuesday.

"So that would be nice. to win three out of four-a[illegible] AFP

NCAA board suspends 6 players; games resume

By June Navarro

Standings	W	L		W	L
CSB	7	1	Letran	3	4
PCU	6	2	Mapua	3	4
SSC	5	2	UPHR	1	7
JRU	4	3	San Beda	1	7

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—SSC vs Mapua (srs)
4 p.m.—JRU vs Letran (srs)

THE NCAA management committee yesterday penalized six players who figured prominently in a bench-clearing incident during the San Beda College-Philippine Christian University encounter Wednesday night.

Red Lion Erl Merelos, PCU's Robert Sanz, Aldwyn Ilagan and Nelson Gatdula were slapped with three-game suspensions each for directly participating in the fracas that saw a total of 23 players being ejected.

Dolphins Leo Gaspi and Al Dais, who chased Merelos down court, earned one-game penalties each.

San Sebastian's Francisco Gusi, vice chairman of the NCAA management committee, said the rest of the players were issued stern warnings, stressing that second-time offenders would be punished severely.

The Red Lions were in full control, 79-60, with 6.24 remaining in the fourth quarter when Merelos and Ilagan engaged in a shoving match.

It sparked the bench-clearing incident that saw Ilagan, Gatdula, Gaspi, Dais and Sanz chase Merelos.

After the smoke of battle cleared, league officials ejected 10 players from San Beda and 13 from PCU, almost wiping out the entire crew of the Dolphins except for Bernzon Franco and Joseph Roque.

Ateneo's Alvarez axed for punching

By Dennis U. Eroa

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m.—UE vs UST
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle

ATENEO'S bid to stop La Salle's onslaught suffered a big blow when the all-powerful UAAP technical committee slapped a one-game suspension on two-time MVP Richard Alvarez for "unsportsmanlike conduct."

ALVAREZ

The 6-foot-4 Alvarez, who averages 10 points, and nine rebounds a game will be in street clothes as the Blue Eagles seek to burst the Green Archers' bubble when they clash tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

Titleholder La Salle is riding high on the crest of a six-game winning streak and a victory over Ateneo will give the Taft-based dribblers a first round sweep. The Eagles (4-2) badly need a victory in order to keep the Archers within sight going into the second round of eliminations.

UAAP president Sonny Paguia of host National University said a review of the tape of the Adamson-Ateneo game on Aug. 4 showed that Alvarez punched Jojo Hate during an undergoal tussle.

The technical committee is headed by Kiko Diaz of the University of the Philippines.

"The technical committee met as requested by Commissioner Joe Lipa. The offense carries an automatic one-game suspension. This is not the first time that this thing happened," said Paguia, who added that the decision is final.

Other members of the committee are University of the East's Brenn Perez, Ramoncito Campos of La Salle and Ateneo's Raul Albarece.

Last year, La Salle's Carlo Sharma was suspended for one game during the championship series, while Enrico Villanueva kissed his MVP hopes goodbye two years ago when he lost his cool and punched Adamson's Steve Rolan.

Alvarez isn't known for being hot-tempered. This is his first suspension in three years of playing in the league. According to an INQUIRER source who also reviewed the tape, Hate was seen giving Alvarez a nudge, prompting the Ateneo stalwart to retaliate.

The referees, however, didn't see Alvarez throwing a punch. Hate and Alvarez were actually assessed with a double-foul. Alvarez stayed on the game as Ateneo survived Adamson, 79-73.

Meanwhile, University of the Philippines whipped NU, 80-72, and evened its record to 3-3. The UP Preps also beat the NU Bullpups, 74-61.

Tigers oust Nationals

By June Navarro

COCA Cola shattered Selecta-RP's dreams of entering the quarterfinals with a methodical 74-62 victory last night in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Tigers simply went through the motion of ending their elimination campaign on a promising note as they outplayed the Nationals with a combination of torrid outside shooting and efficient teamwork.

Coach Chot Reyes and his Tigers finished their elims campaign at 6-4, reinforcing their drive to earn the coveted twice-to-beat advantage in the quarterfinals.

The top four teams at the end of the eliminations will earn the twice-to-beat incentive. Red Bull (7-3) and San Miguel Beer (6-3) are already assured of the privilege.

"We're praying hard that things will fall into their proper places. But we're not going to lose sleep in case we fail to get the twice-to-beat. We will focus in beating our opponent twice in the quarters," Reyes said. He stressed that as early as last week the Tigers preparation is already centered on beating a team twice.

The Nationals bowed out with a 3-7 card. Coca Cola's victory also gave Talk N' Text (4-5) free ride in the quarters but it shut the door on the aspirations of FedEx (5-4) to earn the twice-to-beat.

Ron Hale intensified his efforts in the final quarter, scoring 13 of his 26 points that virtually took the Nationals out of commission.

Scores:

COCA-COLA 74—Hale 26, Braggs 16, Antonio 11, Julnio 11, Abarrientos 6, Abuda 2, Avenido 2, Bolado 0, Morano 0.

SELECTA-RP 62—Taulava 18, Carlaso 8, Menk 7, Racela 7, Espino 6, Hatfield 4, Pennisi 3, Fernandez 3, Hontiveros 2, Duremdes 2, Castillo 2, Jackson 0, Ildefonso 0.

Quarters: 19-15, 35-26, 57-46, 74-62.

Pasay hosts 4-cocker tonight; ₱3M at stake

BIG-TIME cockfighting returns to the Pasay City Cockpit tonight via the special 4-cock derby beginning at 7 p.m. At stake is P300,000. The entry fee is P10,000.

Among those invited by derby hosts Danny Aguilar and Julie Cui are derby enthusiasts Benjie Lim, OPMI president Vic Yu, Ucap president Raymond Velayo, Danny Ty, lawyer Romero Yu, former Rep. Peping Cojuangco, Esting Teopaco, Rep. Ompong Plaza, Mauro Prieto and Richard Bates among others.

Every participant will receive giveaways from Casino Filipino–Parañaque while the champion will get an elegant trophy.

Meanwhile, the much-fancied "Fastest Win 3-Cock Derby" will be held on Aug. 16, with 37 sure entries entered. At stake is P150,000, with a low entry fee of P3,300.

Every participant will automatically receive P2,000 first bet certificate, three T-shirts, Sagupaan Super Feeds products, one case of San Miguel Beer in can and *pulutan*.

Sabong idol Patrick Antonio and sexy movie star Pyar Mirasol will award the P10,000 cash prize and a trophy to the Fastest Win winner. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

SPORTSWATCH

Mercado Builders posts 2 victories

HOMER Mercado Builders posted two victories recently to level their (win-loss) record at 2-2 in the ongoing 4th Danny Espiritu Open Invitational Cup basketball tournament at the Lyceum gym. The Builders nipped Wangs Ball Club, 63-61, and then downed Mayor Peewee Trinidad's Pasay squad, 86-79, to rank third, behind unbeaten Hartmann-Seigle (4-0) and defending champion Spring Cooking Oil (3-1). The Builders-Wangs game was close all the way with the former inching ahead 32-31 at halftime. However, the Builders had to rally from a 35-41 deficit in its match with Pasay. Two Cebu teams—M. Lhuillier and ML Kuarta Padala—will make their debut on Aug. 15 in the tourney sponsored by Spring Margarine, Morning Star Tours and Travel, Red Bull, Talk N Text, Purefoods, FedEx, SMB, Ginebra San Miguel, Coca-Cola, Alaska, Shell and Sta. Lucia Realty and supported by Milo and adidas.

Rizal nips Masbate, rules Group A

RIZAL Province nipped Masbate, 1-0, yesterday morning to rule Group A and advance to the semifinals of the Luzon football finals at the Philsports field in Pasig City. Richard Torres produced what turned out to be the game's lone marker in the 37th minute. With a one-win, one-loss record, the Masbate booters also made it to the semis which will start today. Masbate eliminated Camarines Norte on Wednesday by cruising to a 14-0 victory. Pedro Sola and Severino Floresta starred for Masbate by scoring three goals apiece. Powerhouse NCR, represented by Air Force, was playing Baguio City in the other match at presstime yesterday. The tourney is being staged by the Philippine Football Federation to determine the four Luzon teams that will qualify for the national men's championship slated next month in Bacolod City.

Singapore's 'Chinese' draw ire

SINGAPORE—A gold medal harvest by Chinese-born women playing for Singapore in the recent Commonwealth Games has triggered a debate in the city-state over the policy of tapping foreign sporting talent. The table tennis and badminton victories had little luster for some Singaporeans who felt as if the predominantly ethnic Chinese island republic had bought the medals by naturalizing foreign players. Minister of Sports and Community Development Yaacob Ibrahim defended the policy, saying it was aimed at boosting the standards of local athletes. "With more champions in our midst, and with well-structured training programs in place, we can bring about a more competitive and dynamic sports environment here in Singapore," he told AFP. "We can then look forward to producing more home-grown champions as we have done in the past," he added. Star table tennis player Jing Junhong has been here 12 years and is married to a former Singaporean player, while team-mates Li Jiawei and Zhang Xueling came to Singapore about seven and four years ago respectively. *AFP*

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Honor Code 2. Lumiere 3. Husay Na/Mutya ng Nayon 4. Jay O Jay
Race 2—1. Adam's Call 2. Coulrt General 3. Secret
Race 3—1. Glory Allelula 2. Privately Owned/Full Blast 3. Manila Mauler
Race 4—1. Aringkingking 2. Morning After 3. Lady Blaster 4. Rock's Dragon
Race 5—1. C'est Moi 2. West Swinger 3. Strawberry's Wish 4. Express Strike
Race 6—1. Destroyer 2. Head and Tail 3. Free Agent 4. Best Lover/Pingas 5. Angelovich
Race 7—1. Are You Happy 2. Spanish Eyes 3. Nokaba 4. Thundering Dunk 5. Beauty and Grace
Race 8—1. Baptism of Fire 2. Earth Angel 3. Richie Rich
Race 9—1. Maayo Kaayo 2. Kayang Kaya 3. Wine and Roses 4. Free Wind 5. Field Master 6. College Gem

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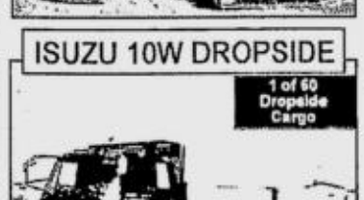
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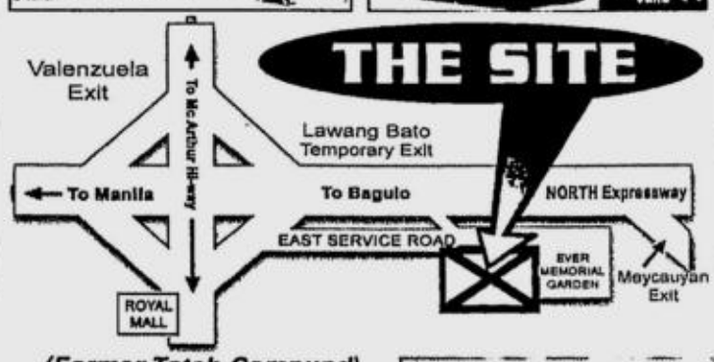

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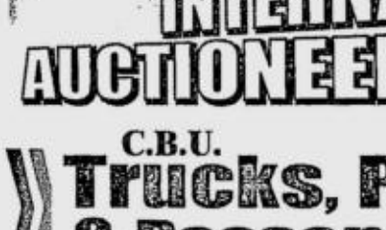
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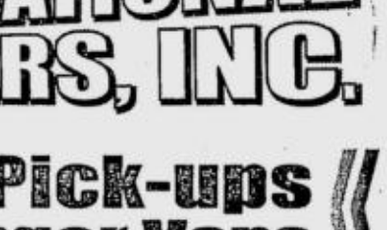
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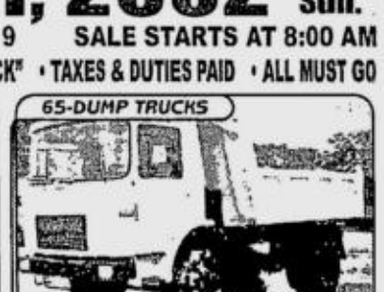
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Heavy Equipment Available via Sealed Bidding!
• Ready for Inspection on August 8 & 9
• Each machine has a floor price
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• Sale will be via sealed bidding from Aug. 8 (8am) to Aug. 11 (12 noon)
• Results will be available by Aug. 11 (4 pm)

The SMART Club Series Continues with Godskitchen Global Dance

World-class clubbing comes alive once again as SMART brings to Manila the latest installment in its series of international club gigs - Godskitchen Global Dance at The NBC Tent tomorrow night.

Club-habitues have only tonight to rest in preparation for what promises to be yet another sunrise-greeter of a party from SMART, in the tradition of previous dawn-breakers Chicane, Slinky, Gatecrasher and Space Ibiza. Godskitchen Global Dance's doors open at ten.

Godskitchen is a party experience home-based in the Birmingham, UK club Code. In recent years, the Godskitchen experience has been exported to foreign shores - from Ibiza to Istanbul. Tomorrow's Philippine stopover, supported by SMART and organized by Big Fish, features Darren Pearce, whose resumé of club residencies include Peach, The Dance Academy and Freedom. His set is described as an amalgamation of melodic techno, trance and progressive dance.

Hungry for a serving of fun from Godskitchen?

* If you're a SMART Gold or SMART Buddy GSM subscriber, you have a chance to win 150 FREE tickets to Godskitchen Global Dance! Just wait for a call from SMART to get those FREE tickets.
* If you switch or subscribe to SMART Gold GSM at The NBC Tent tomorrow night, you get a chance to win one of 75 FREE invites to the event, plus FREE drinks.
* If you SIM swap to SMART Buddy 64K SuperSIM or subscribe to SMART Buddy GSM there, you may also win one of 150 FREE tickets, and get FREE drinks as well!
* Now, if you're an existing SMART subscriber, you get P100 off tickets sold that evening. Moreover, a dedicated Express Lane will also be provided.

Experience world-class clubbing as only SMART can offer it, at Godskitchen Global Dance at the NBC Tent. Sleep early tonight, and party SMART Saturday night!

SMART Cooks Up An Amazing Offer - Available Only at Godskitchen

Switch to SMART Gold GSM at Godskitchen!

For non-SMART users with monthly bills averaging at least P1,800 over the last two months, subscribe to:
- Plans 1335 or 1995 and get any cellphone on offer for FREE (except for the Nokia 9210i, 8910 and 7650 models); or
- Plan 2665 and get any cellphone of your choice - even the Nokia 9210i, 8910 and 7650 models - for FREE*.

** All FREE phones availed of shall be tied-in to a 24-month contract.*

DJ Darren Pearce

The Hottest Places on a Saturday Night

These could be the hottest hang-out places on weekends:

Choice # 1: On your couch watching re-runs on cable while munching on stale food from the ref.
Hotness Quotient: If you are seated on your couch with your boyfriend/girlfriend, there's don't need to ask if it will be hot. We don't want to be too graphic.

Coldness Quotient: If you are alone, poor you, alone on a Saturday night without anyone to hug you, I guess that will be very cold. Start considering getting a pet dog or cat to lend you some warmth).

Choice# 2: Dining out with your special group of friends in the hottest restaurant in town (and when we say special, it means those people were your friends when you were not earning yet your first millions or you had not bought a Jaguar yet, these are your friends without hidden agendas or vested interests).

Hotness Quotient: Since you are with your friends, that gives you an edge. In these trying times, it's really a challenge to maintain true friends. However, to be seen in the hottest restaurants is another matter. If they are your true friends, a special meal in the comfort of your house will suffice. And by the way, I hope you made those reservations weeks before since it will be hard to depend on luck to get a table; or even a seat by the bar if the restaurant happens to be really hot.

Coldness Quotient: Since you are in the hottest spot this side of town, everyone will be there as well. That lessens your idea of a quiet downtime with friends since you will be distracted by clowns masquerading as partymakers with their partyhats on. Maybe you may consider this option.

Choice # 3: Catching the newest movie in the Cineplex.

Hotness Quotient: If you have a date, go ahead and indulge. That's very hot.

Coldness Quotient: If you are alone, that will be a very cold Saturday night, no explanation needed. Just make sure you bring your wool jacket or your mink stole because it really gets friggin' cold especially if you watch an independent film (what we call here in Manila as art film). You may consider watching those Judy Ann movies (at least the cinema is full since it is a blockbuster and the theater won't be that cold).

Choice # 4: Coffee At Starbucks or Seattle's Best Coffee

Hotness Quotient: Coffee is a hot idea, especially if you are with friends. Perfect for playing catch up with friends.

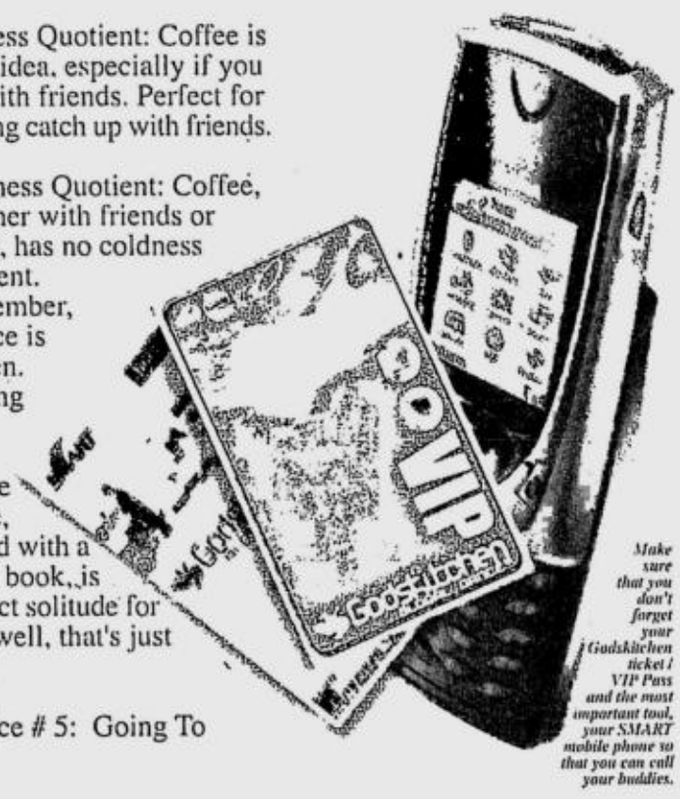
Coldness Quotient: Coffee, whether with friends or alone, has no coldness quotient. Remember, silence is golden. Having coffee alone, paired with a good book, is perfect solitude for me (well, that's just me).

Choice # 5: Going To SMART's Godskitchen At The NBC Tent

Hotness Quotient: It will be very, very, very HOT! Remember, SMART is the same network that brought you Chicane in Manila, Slinky In Boracay and that last big event, Space Ibiza. Need I say more?

Coldness Quotient: None

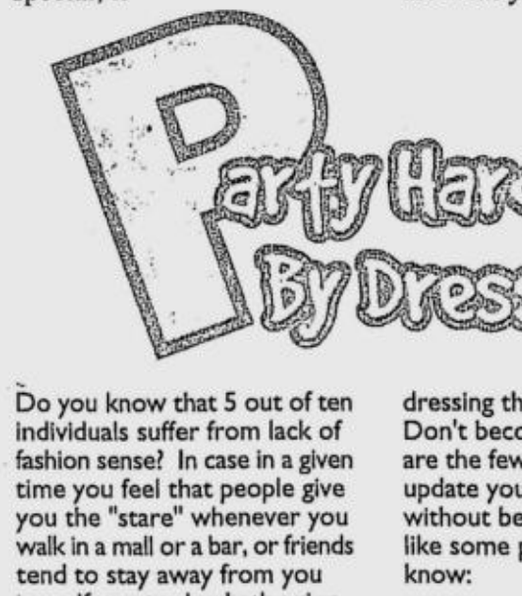
SMART's Godkitchen is happening this Saturday, August 10, at the NBC Tent. Gate opens at 10 p.m.



Make sure that you don't forget your Godskitchen ticket / VIP Pass and the most important tool, your SMART mobile phone so that you can call your buddies.

Party Hard The SMART Way By Dressing Up Smart

Do you know that 5 out of ten individuals suffer from lack of fashion sense? In case in a given time you feel that people give you the "stare" whenever you walk in a mall or a bar, or friends tend to stay away from you even if you took a bath prior to meeting them or you drank a bottle of mouthwash, then, most likely, you are not dressing the part fashionably. Don't become a statistic, here are the few pointers as to how update your fashion antenna without being a fashion victim, like some popular people we know:



1. Read fashion magazines or buy that book "What Do I Wear" by Kim Johnson Gross. It pays to be well-informed.

2. Assess your personality and sense-of-style. Make sure that what your wear fits you to a T. You can also ask your friends to give honest feedback (and when we say honest, it is up to the point that your friends will tell you things that might cost you your friendship). In the first place, that what friends are for, to tell you smack in your face what you need to know.)

3. Consider hiring a personal shopper, or better yet, ask a friend with good shopping sense to come with you whenever you are out in the mall shopping (note: Just make sure you don't befriend a widow of a former dictator who is known worldwide as a voracious shopping addict, unless you want to end up owning 3,000 pairs of shoes.)

4. Watch TV, they have fashion channels or you may wish to watch "Sex And The City" over at free TV or HBO if you have cable. (Important reminder: Please don't watch bad shows, thank God that That's Entertainment has been defunct for quite some time.)

5. Attend great parties. One perfect site for fashion watching is SMART's Godskitchen this Saturday at NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City. See good-looking people who are dressed smartly and right for the occasion.

These are few pointers. If you try to follow them, you may have a headstart, you may never land on Mr. Blackwell's annual best-dressed list, but hey, at least your friends won't keep a distance from you or you may even win new friends along the way. One last rule about fashion: "Keep It Simple And Make It SMART".

SMART Party Etiquette For Party-Philes

Have you seen that movie "Blast From The Past" starring Alicia Silverstone and Brendan Fraser? Or that little screen romance movie of Meg Ryan and Hugh Jackman? There are scenes there that perfectly define smart manners with regards to partying that you can apply in your day-to-day life (even if you are not dating gorgeous Hollywood stars). These are the smart rules that could make a change in your partying life and who knows, could get you a date:

1. For the guys, be a gentleman; and for the gals, be a lady. As mentioned by Perry Como-loving Brendan Fraser's "Adam" to Alicia Silvestone's "Eve", a gentleman is someone who makes sure that everyone around him is comfortable. And a lady is just the same.

2. When a lady, err, a woman stands up, make sure to stand up as well as a sign of respect and to assist her in moving the chair. And if a woman will be taking her seat again, it pays to stand up and assist her in sitting down. (There you go, now you know the logic with regards to Hugh Jackman's standing up whenever Meg Ryan stands up in "Kate and Leopold").

3. Learn some smart card tricks or polish your delivery of smart jokes, make sure that the punchline will really deliver the much-needed punch. There is no other way to impress others but with a good sense of humor.

4. Read up. It maybe ideal that you read all the published literature so that you could talk about everything under the sun, but it pays that you know that Anchorage is not the state capital of Alaska, it's Juno. (Found that out from "Blast From The Past" as well).

5. Don't be too opinionated or judgemental of others. We may have pre-conceived notions of others that may be wrong, it will be helpful to you if you get to know other's opinions as well to enlighten us with regards to our own opinion. Respect is the keyword.

6. Lastly, update those dancing skills. You don't need to learn to foxtrot, boogie or swing, but a few nifty dance moves can make or break a date. Just make sure you don't end up like a geek in that dancefloor. So If I were you, catch up on your dance moves.(Remember that scene wherein Brendan Fraser wowed the disco crowd with those cool dance moves?)

We may never end up as the ideal dates, but the little things that we do during the date just may make us nearly perfect. You don't need to be stiff - a little fine-tuning and refresher on how to handle dates should make the difference. Pick up that phone of yours and invite your special someone this Saturday for SMART's Godskitchen event happening this Saturday at The NBC Tent. Who knows? You and your date may just have the greatest party-date of your life!

Advertorial

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3072. Series of 2002.

zed™

"Serial Downloader" 24 M
Dr. Zedmund Freud M.D.

Aug. 9, 2002

Treatment unsuccessful. Patient starting to enjoy electro-shock therapy. Continues to compulsively download zed logos. Obsesses about becoming 2,859th person to download zed logo today to win Palm m100 (fig.A). Craves for weekly and monthly prizes from zed Logo Loco (fig. B). Has annoying habit of insisting I type HELP LOGOLOCO and send to 288 for more info. Just for fun, will recommend using leeches. Hope he screams.

fig. A

fig. B

To join zed Logo Loco, type JOIN LOGOLOCO <name>/<address>/<birthdate (mmddyy)>/<gender> and send to 288. Type HELP LOGOLOCO and send to 288 for more info. Or type RANDOMLOGO and send to 288 to get a random list of keywords of logos. This promotion is open to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1351, series of 2002

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2 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
3 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 GOLD (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	ALL ABOUT A BOY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SORORITY BOYS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
8	ANG GALING MO BABES
9	URAGON
10	MEGIDDO

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana Cinema

TEL. 951 63 87

1	URAGON
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	SAGAD

stармall Movies

(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	URAGON
2	GALING MO BABES
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
5	SAGAD

METROPOLIS star

tel 850.4285

1	SAGAD
2	PAKI SABI NA LANG
3	GALING MO BABES
4	URAGON
5	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6	WINDTALKERS
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA

(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	ALL ABOUT BOYS

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	PAKI SABI NA LANG
2	SUM OF ALL FEARS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.

tel 930.9515

1	
2	SAGAD
3	

Spring

(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	
A	

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	URAGON
2	
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	
3	
4	URAGON
5	ALL ABOUT A BOYS
6	GALING MO BABES
7 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
8 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
9 (DOLBY)	KILLING MO SOFTLY

Gotesco Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PAKI SABI NA LANG
2	GALING MO BABES
3	URAGON
4 (SDDS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	SAGAD
6 (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
7 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
8	MEN IN BLACK 2
9	HIGH EXPLOSIVE

Gotesco Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	
2	
3	
4	GALING MO BABES
5 (SDDS)	URAGON
6	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
7 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
8	SAGAD

Gotesco Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	GALING MO BABES
2	SAGAD
3 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	URAGON
5 (SDDS)	WINDTALKERS

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	URAGON

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	URAGON

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	GALING MO BABES SUGAT

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	URAGON
2	GALING MO BABES
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto

SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	GALING MO BABES
3	PAKI SABI NA LANG
4	URAGON
5	SAGAD

New Divisoria Mall

DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	
2	
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4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	
2	

Berma TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 67

1	URAGON
2	SAGAD

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	40 URAGON
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	URAGON
2 (DTS)	GALING MO BABES
3 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	ALL ABOUT A BOY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	URAGON
2 (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
3 (DTS)	ALL ABOUT A BOY
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	GALING MO BABES
2	PAKI SABI NA LANG
3	MEGGIDO
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	PAKI SABI NA LANG
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DOLBY)	MEGGIDO
4 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
2	SAGAD
3	URAGON
4 (DTS)	GALING MO BABES

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DTS)	ALL ABOUT A BOY
4	URAGON
5	DOG SOLDIER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	URAGON
3	GALING MO BABES

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249-2558

1	GALING MO BABES
2	URAGON
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MEGIDDO
2	URAGON
3	PAKI SABI NA LANG

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	GALING MO BABES
3	WINDTALKERS
4	PAKI SABI NA LANG

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	PAKI SABI NA LANG
3 (DTS)	SORORITY BOYS
4	URAGON

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SM CITY BACOOR 4173808

1	KILLING ME SOFTLY
2	ANG GALING-GALING...
3	WINDTALKERS
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	8 LEGGED FREAKS
6	D' URAGONS
7	SAGAD
8	ABOUT A BOY

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 -7161416

1	D' URAGONS
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	WINDTALKERS
6	SAGAD
7	STUART LITTLE 2
8	SORORITY BOYS
9	ANG GALING-GALING...
10	SAGAD

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	ABOUT A BOY
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG...
4	WINDTALKERS
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	D' URAGONS
7	8 LEGGED FREAKS
8	ANG GALING-GALING...
9	SORORITY BOYS
10	SAGAD
11	MEN IN BLACK 2
12	MEGIDDO

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	8 LEGGED FREAKS
3	MEGIDDO
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	WINDTALKERS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	SAGAD
9	D' URAGONS
10	MEN IN BLACK 2
11	PAKISABI NA LANG...
12	ANG GALING-GALING

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6328401

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	MEGIDDO
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	PAKISABI NALANG...
9	D' URAGONS
10	WINDTALKERS
11	ANG GALING-GALING..
12	SAGAD

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	MEGIDDO
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	ANG GALING-GALING
4	D' URAGONS
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	ABOUT A BOY
7	8 LEGGED FREAKS
8	WINDTALKERS

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888

1	KILLING ME SOFTLY
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	PAKISABI NA LANG...
7	D' URAGONS
8	WINDTALKERS
9	ANG GALING-GALING...
10	SAGAD

SM CITY CEBU 2313876

1	ILLUSION ENCORE
2	WINDTALKERS
3	SORORITY BOYS
4	DOG SOLDIERS
5	D' URAGONS
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	ANG GALING-GALING...
8	8 LEGGED FREAKS

SM CITY ILOILO 3209422

1	ABOUT THE BENJAMIN
2	CLOSED
3	D' URAGONS
4	8 LEGGED FREAKS
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	BIG FAT LIAR
7	CLOSED
8	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	ANG GALING-GALING...
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	D' URAGONS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT 8294975

1	ANG GALING-GALING...
2	WINDTALKERS
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	D' URAGONS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302

1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
2	ABOUT A BOY
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	D' URAGONS

SM CITY DAVAO 2976998

1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	WINDTALKERS
4	D' URAGONS
5	DOG SOLDIERS
6	MEGIDDO

SM BICUTAN

1	
2	SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
3	
4	

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
2	
3	
4	

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ALL ABOUT A BOY
11:15 FS/ 11:45/ 2:00/ 4:15/ 6:30/ 8:45/ 10:30 LFS/ 11:00 LMF/ 12:40 END

KILLING ME SOFTLY
11:15 FS/ 11:45 MF/ 2:00/ 4:15/ 6:30/ 8:45/ 10:30 LFS/ 11:00 LMF/ 12:45 END

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1 THX	ABOUT A BOY
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	MEGIDDO
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	WINDTALKERS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	URAGONS
9	GALING MO BABES
10	STUART LITTLE 2

Ermita 536-7809-12

1	WINDTALKERS
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	URAGONS
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	GALING MO BABES
6	ABOUT A BOY
7	KILLING ME SOFTLY

Metro East - Marcos Hway 682-8193 / 8280

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	ABOUT A BOY
4	URAGONS
5	WINDTALKERS
6	GALING MO BABES
7	
8	

Novaliches 935-3229-30

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6	GALING MO BABES
7	URAGONS
8	

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838

1	WINDTALKERS
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	GALING MO BABES
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	URAGONS

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	PAKI SABI NA LANG
4	WINDTALKERS
5	WALK TO REMEMBER
6	BIG FAT LIAR

Iloilo 336-8077 - 78

1	WINDTALKERS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	BIG FAT LIAR
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	URAGONS
6	ALL ABOUT BENJAMINS

Star Mills- 875 1927 / 961 5318 / 5270

1	URAGONS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	GALING MO BABES
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	WINDTALKERS

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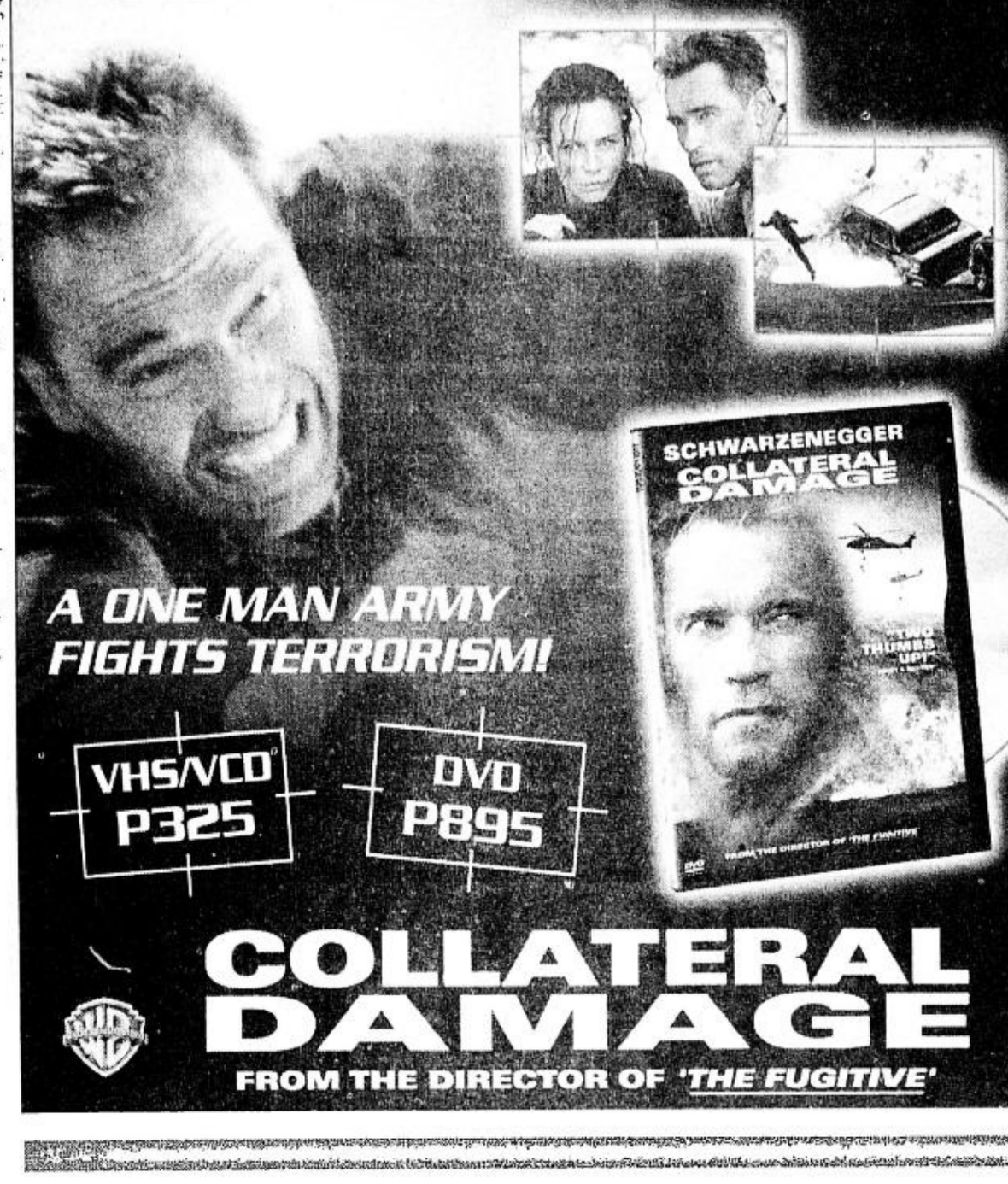

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SCREENPLAY BY JESSE ALEXANDER & ELLORY ELKAYEM PRODUCED BY DEAN DEVLIN AND BRUCE BERMAN DIRECTED BY ELLORY ELKAYEM
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"TOTALLY UNMISSABLE...A TRIUMPH." MARIELLA FROSTRUP - HARPERS & QUEEN
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'Scandalous,' neighbors say of Da Silva

By Christian V. Esguerra

DA SILVA

BEFORE former actor Dennis Da Silva's arrest for allegedly raping his common-law wife's 14-year-old daughter, his neighbors had been planning to kick him out of their Paranaque village because of his "scandalous behavior."

"He was very unruly whenever he was drunk," security guard Rolando de Mesa told the Inquirer on Wednesday.

"He usually did not create trouble in the street but he was so loud that is neighbors never failed to notice his behavior," the guard said in Filipino.

A female neighbor described the former "That's Entertainment" cast member as "the only resident" of Jestra Villas in San Antonio Valley 5 with a "scandalous" behavior.

She said the village is generally peaceful if not for the 29-year-old Da Silva's outbursts inside his house at No. 20 Monte de Piedad St.

The Inquirer tried to talk to Da Silva on Wednesday morning but he shut the door of his two-story house when this reporter identified himself.

Da Silva shares the house with his 41-year-old live-in partner, and, until recently, with the woman's children.

After his arrest Sunday, neighbors now have better reason to kick him out, said a former village official.

De Mesa said there were persistent rumors among villagers that Da Silva was into drugs.

In 1995, Da Silva and two companions were arrested for their alleged involvement in drug dealing in Pasig City.

Ironically, some residents of Jestra Villas had been unaware that Da Silva was their neighbor until they saw him on television Monday following his arrest.

"I checked the list of homeowners but he was not there," a woman resident said.

Guard De Mesa said Da Silva usually stayed home. Male friends on board cars and vans occasionally visited him, he added.

Jestra, a quiet village with a narrow entrance and streets, was generally unheard of except in occasional reports about pool champion Francisco "Django" Bustamante who lives there.

Da Silva returned home Tuesday after Paranaque prosecutors ordered his release pending a preliminary investigation of the rape charges against him. His common-law wife was named an accessory to the supposed crime.

The 14-year-old girl is now in the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Her siblings left the house after Da Silva and his wife were arrested.

Dad seeks probe of 2 small oil firms in depot

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA city councilor wants an investigation to determine why two small oil distribution companies are being allowed to stay on in the Pandacan oil depot despite an ordinance prohibiting their continued operation there.

Councilor Jhosep Lopez identified the companies as Jetti and Prosperity Property.

Lopez said the two firms were given special permits to operate within 90 days from July 1, 2002, in violation of City Ordinance No. 8027.

The Business Promotion and Development Office, headed by former councilor Gerino Tolentino, announced earlier that it refused to issue permits to operate to 17 small oil firms because of the ordinance.

Lopez, chair of the city council's livelihood committee, has filed a resolution exposing the violation and calling on his fellow councilors to conduct an investigation.

The ordinance, which took effect last June 28, effectively phased out all oil distribution, storage and processing facilities in some 30 hectares in the Pandacan-Sta. Ana area.

It converted the so-called Pandacan oil depot and adjoining areas from an industrial to a commercial-residential zone.

Lopez said only the three big oil companies--Petron, Caltex and Shell--are spared from the effects of the ordinance because they entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the city government.

Opposition councilors have described the ordinance as unfair, saying its effectivity was altered to favor the large oil companies.

Under the MOU, which the council approved on July 18, Shell, Caltex and Petron agreed to scale down the depot's operations.

But they were required to shut down several of their tanks, set up a common distribution system and develop a buffer zone around the site to protect nearby communities.

Kilosbayan forum

SEN. Edgardo Angara and Philippine Christian University president Dr. Oscar Suarez will speak at the forum and ninth anniversary celebration of Kilosbayan today at 2 p.m. at the Shalom Center at 1660 L.M. Guerrero St., Malate, Manila.

Angara will speak on "The Quality of the Present Senate and the Program of the Opposition."

The spiritual reflection of Dr. Suarez will be on "Globalization and the Lord's Prayer."

To Mr. Francisco Arcellana from an ordinary fan

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THERE was a thin drizzle when the expected text message reached me. Franz Arcellana, National Artist for Literature, had passed away.

This was the other Tuesday, Aug. 1. I was out in Makati waiting to be arraigned for a libel case, together with Inquirer bigwigs that included publisher Isagani Yambot and editor in chief Letty Magsanoc.

I knew Mr. Arcellana was dying. I received news about his grave condition the previous Saturday. The next day, I was to learn through text messages that he had lapsed into a coma after suffering renal failure.

It was early afternoon. We were waiting for the judge with a terrific first name (WinLove) in the narrow second floor corridor of the Makati Regional Trial Court building.

"I knew Franz would go in August," I told Letty Magsanoc as she prepared to light a cigarette.

"How did you know?" Letty wondered wide-eyed.

"People close to me had died in August," I explained. "My father, my baptismal godfather, an uncle I had owned as my own father, they all died in August."

Letty shook her head in disbelief. She took a puff and mumbled something about August being the cruelest month.

***

I had made a presumptuous claim. I was never really close to Franz Arcellana.

True, I have never stopped adoring and idolizing him after I read "The Wing of Madness," one of his short stories.

But I sincerely doubt if Mr. Arcellana had himself considered me as part of his circle of friends.

Unlike most of today's successful generation of writers like Erwin Castillo, Cesar Ruiz Aquino, Krip Yuson, Butch Dalisay, Charlson Ong who had had the great luck of having seated in Mr. Arcellana's writing class, I was a complete outsider.

Of course, Franz knew that I also dealt with the written word. But in the few happy, memorable instances that we had met and talked, we never, never discussed writing.

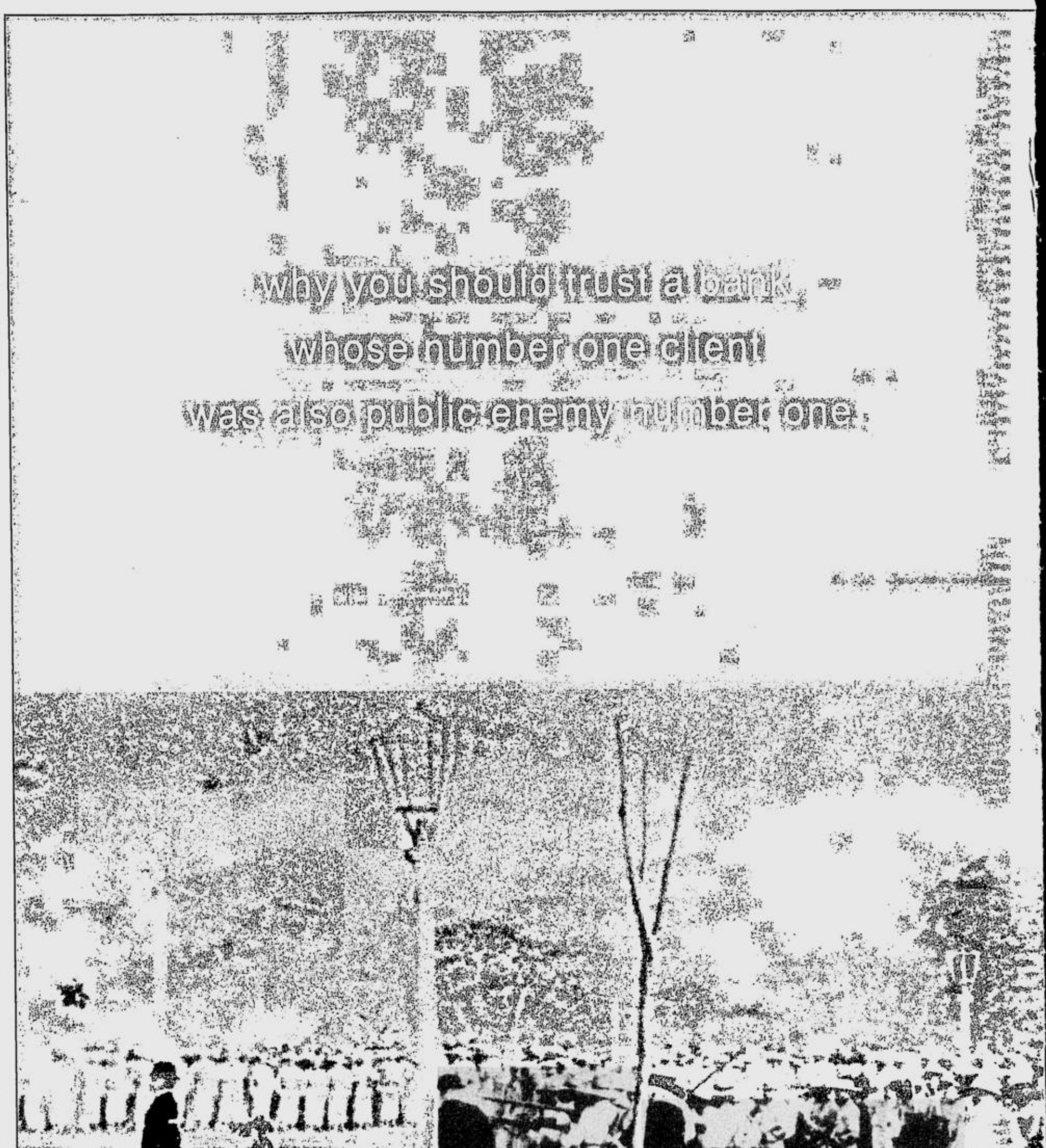
We talked and laughed a lot, but we dealt all too wholesomely on life.

Anyway, what struck me when we first met were his gray hair and his bushy eyebrows.

He already appeared old. But his sparkling eyes, ever aware and glinting with youthful enthusiasm, betrayed the years.

He also struck me as a quiet but very brave man. (This first impression was to be irrevocably confirmed by Mr. Arcellana's son, Francisco Jr., a physician who bared in the necrological service at the CCP on Tuesday that subsequent autopsy showed it was neither pneumonia nor renal failure that did Franz in. His father, he said, died from the unforgiving effects of prostate cancer that had eaten into the spinal col-

TO MR./ p. A29



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Sonny Parsons stops release of man who tried to shoot him

By Agnes E. Donato

MOVIE actor and former singer Sonny Parsons yesterday foiled the scheduled release of a robbery suspect he had shot and wounded on July 18.

Joram Gacete, 24, who broke into Parsons' house and threatened the actor and his family, was almost released yesterday after Marikina State Prosecutor Merba Wega decided on Aug. 6 to allow Gacete to post bail.

But the suspect was kept in jail after Parsons' lawyer filed an amendment to Gacete's original robbery case.

The additional charges filed against Gacete were attempted homicide, violation of the Omnibus Election Code and illegal possession of firearms, Parsons said.

Parsons, real name Jose Nabiola, claimed it was Gacete who had pointed a gun at his head during the break-in at the actor's house in Marikina on July 18.

Parsons, 44, killed two of the robbers while at least two others escaped.

The first hearing of the case's preliminary investigation was held at the Marikina City prosecutor's office yesterday.

"(Gacete) was presented and he gave yet another alibi," Parsons told the Inquirer.

"He has given various alibis already."

He did not say what those alibis were.

Yesterday Parsons also clarified reports that the double homicide charges filed against him for the death of robbery suspects Rodgin Baguinat, 20, and Joemar Mercado, 23, had been dismissed.

"No such case was filed against me in the first place," said Parsons. "The police initially prepared double homicide charges against me but they did not file them because there were no complainants."

Parsons was only charged with frustrated homicide for injuring Gacete in the shootout.

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Terminal blast injures 6 in Caloocan

By Alcuin Papa

SIX PEOPLE were injured when two men hurled a grenade into a bus terminal in Caloocan City Wednesday night.

Insp. Romeo Onte of the Caloocan City police identified four of the injured as drivers Joel Cura, 24, and Mario Lucere, 44; washer Jayson Patriarca, 15, and mechanic Jimmy Latino, 30.

Onte said that at about 10:30 p.m., two men on board a motorcycle were seen circling the Jayselle Express terminal on Zabarte Road in Camarin, Caloocan City.

One of those hurt in the blast told the police that he and his co-workers were going about their duties when they saw somebody throw a grenade, which was followed by an explosion. Six buses were damaged in the blast, Onte said.

Bus company security guard Zenen Depilse said that right after the explosion, he saw two men fleeing from the scene on board a motorcycle bound for Zapote Road and Mangga Street.

Police said that last June, unidentified men had set on fire three aircon buses of Jayselle Express.

Orlando Busante, a supervisor of the bus company, told police that the grenade attack was the work of saboteurs, former employees of the company who had been fired.

Policemen are still investigating the explosion.

2 die in QC

TWO MEN died in two accidents in Quezon City on Wednesday night and early yesterday morning.

A Mitsubishi Lancer ran over Alfredo Palalipa, 27, of Parañaque City, while he was crossing Commonwealth Avenue on his way home at about 11:40 p.m. Wednesday, said PO3 Venus Ormita of the Central Police District Traffic Sector 5. Relatives said Palalipa was about to leave the country to work abroad.

About three hours later, Erwin Bando, 30, of Novaliches, Quezon City, died at the Gen. Miguel Malvar Hospital due to head injuries after the Toyota Corolla he was riding in blew a tire and turned over on Litex Road. *Alcuin Papa*

To Mr. Francisco

From p. A28

umn and made every slight body motion of the victim feel as deathly, damning as a knife cutting through his insides. Franz, said the amazed son, had never spoken about pain-not even once-until the end.)

***

Of course, there was one instance when our casual talk had strayed in the dangerous direction of literature.

It happened in an art show opening in Agnes Arellano's place at Pinaglabanan where David Cortez Medalla predictably took center stage.

I and Franz were standing in a corner quaffing cold beer straight from the bottle.

I had actually strayed into the affair sleepless after having helped put a mid-week sports magazine to bed in a sweatshop around Cubao.

Out of beery, sleepless curiosity, I tried to lead Franz into talking more about the sweetly mysterious woman in the Wing of Madness.

Fine. He did talk about her, but not as a character in the masterpiece. He discussed her as an ever-lingering presence.

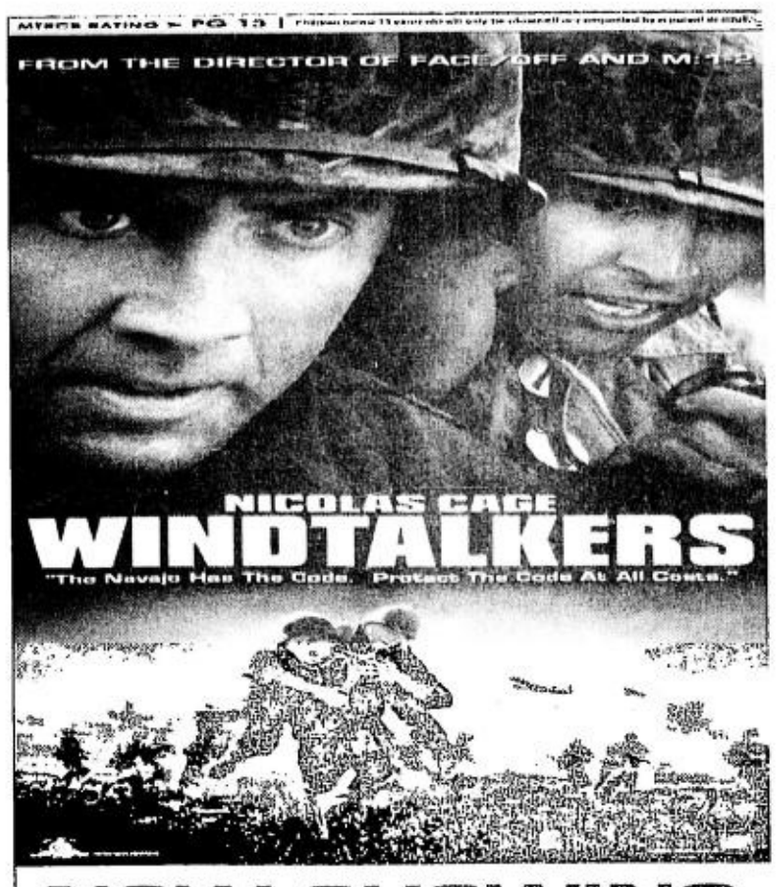
Looking back, I doubt if Franz would've believed it had I confessed that I felt dazed and hollow-kneed immediately after I had finished reading that short story of his.

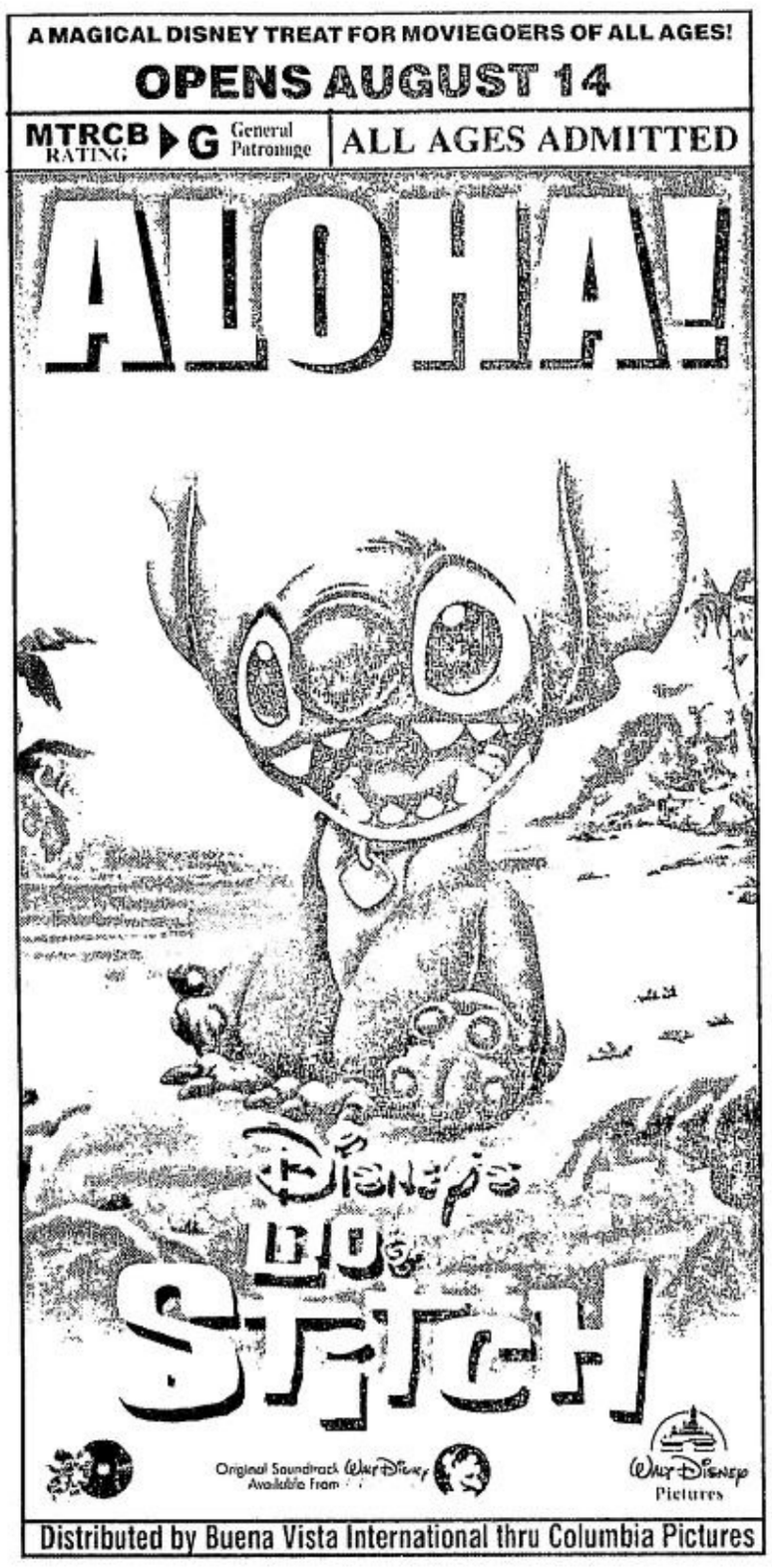
The prose in that rare, magnificent tale was actually an incantation.

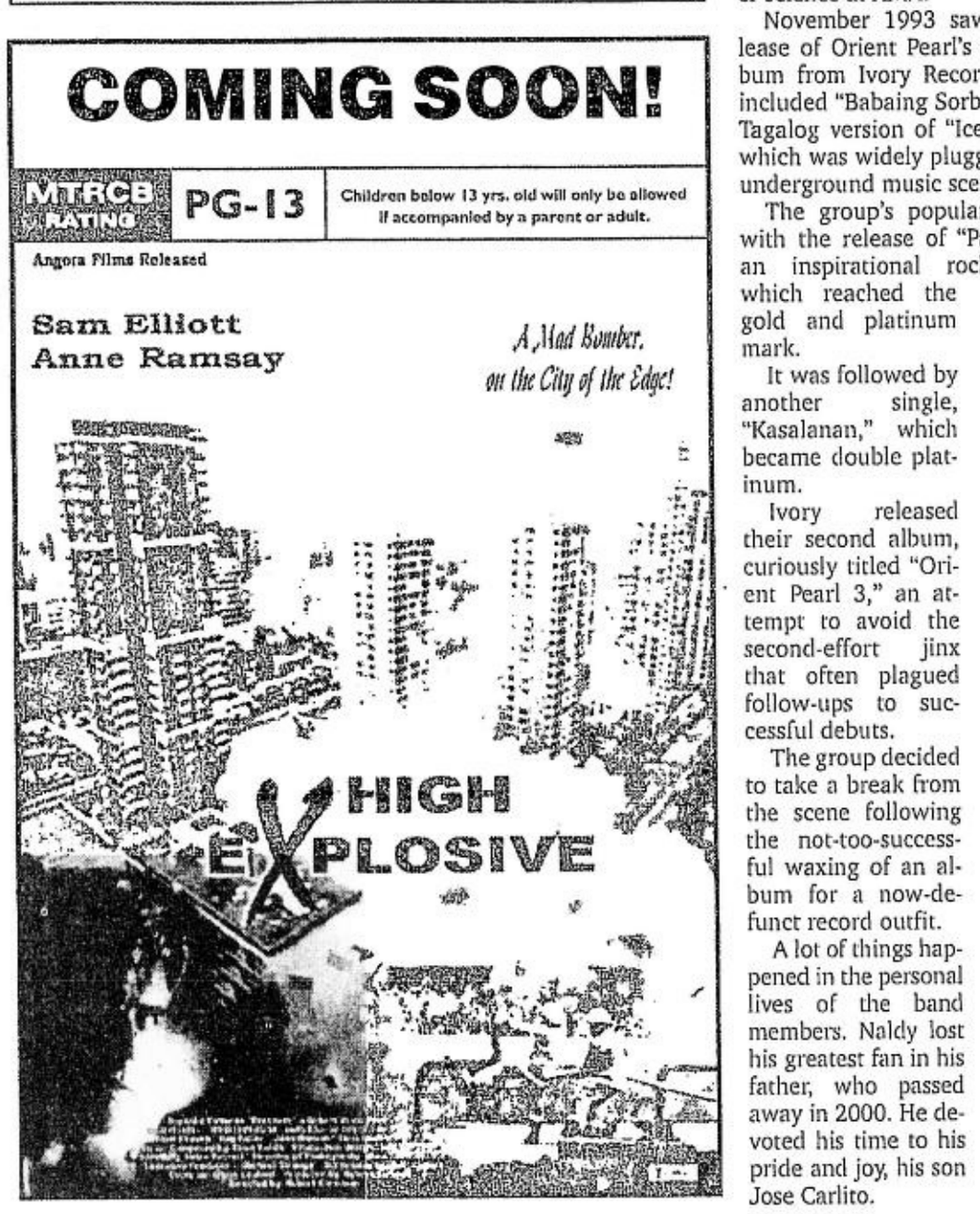
In a way, it was also a prayer to the Muse.

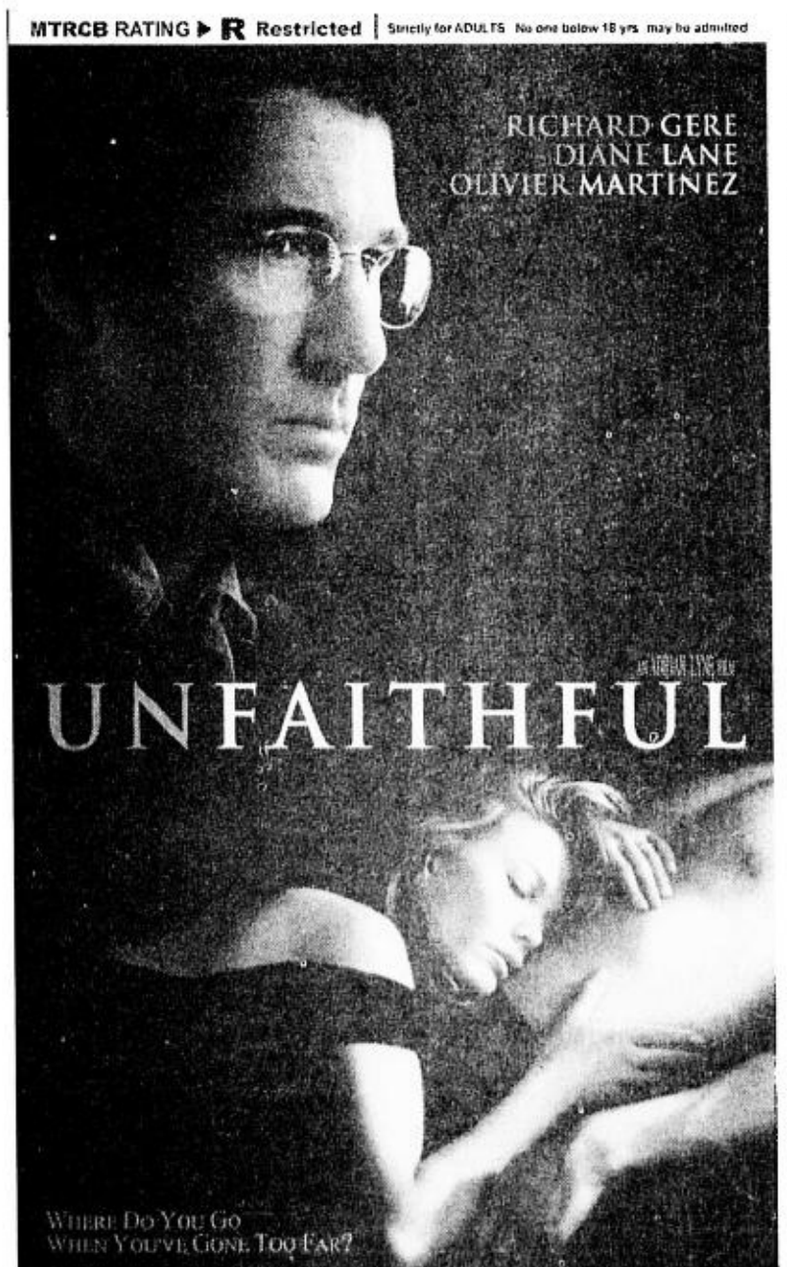
Maybe the story's final effect, definitely narcotic, was what Jose Garcia Villa had been saying about great poetry: that it is best felt than merely understood.

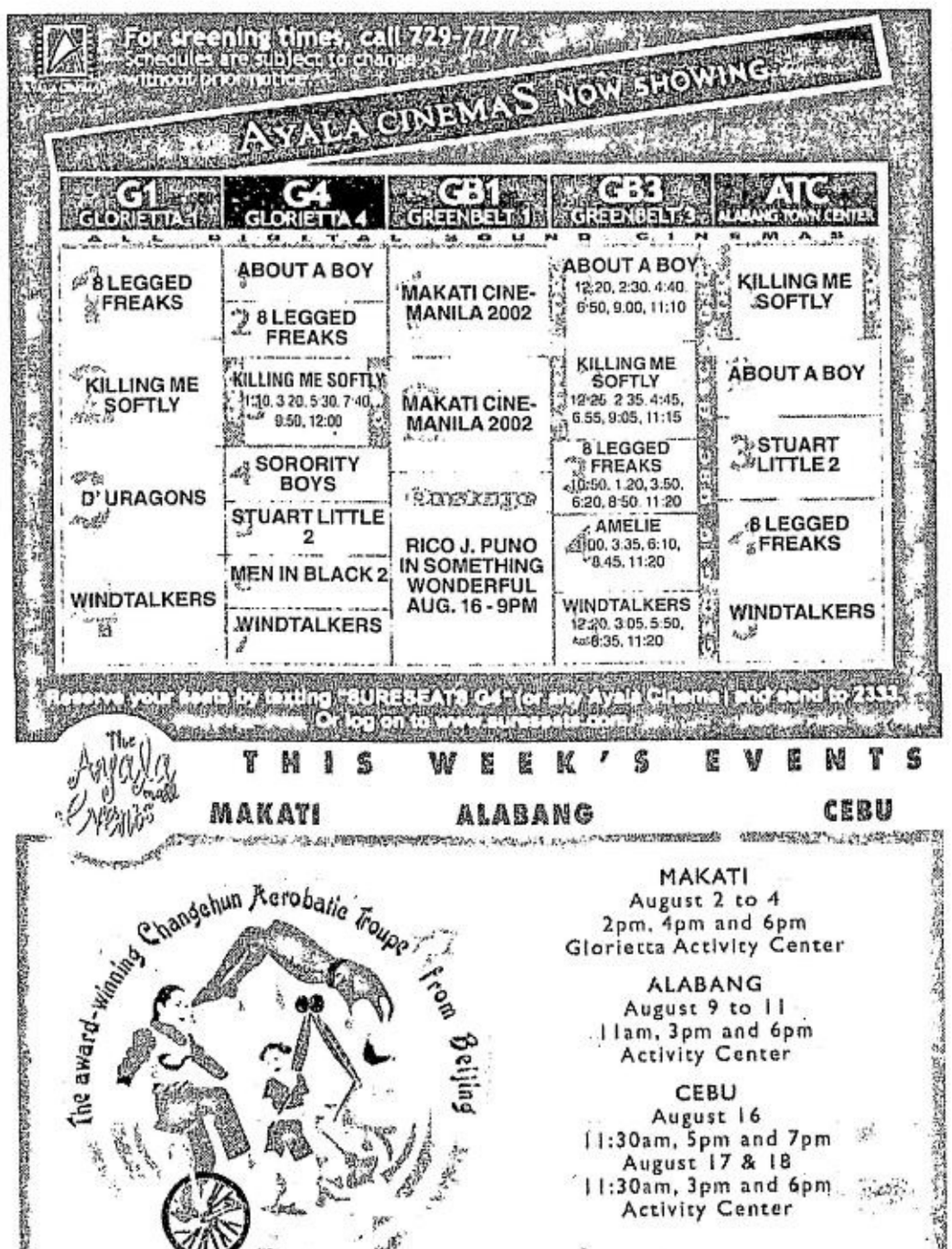
Franz Arcellana, friend, had touched me that much. The only reason, I hasten to say, he had the right to leave us in August.











Orient Pearl is alive and well and playing again

By Remy M. Umerez
Contributor

ORIENT PEARL

THE OLD song goes, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." So do bands, like the rock band Orient Pearl.

The band was formed in 1993 with Naldy Padilla on vocals, Leo Awatin on lead guitar, Egan Bamberger on bass and Ritch Raymundo on drums. A lot of changes in the line-up later, the band settling with Ryan Gomez on bass and Dexter Panlilio on keyboards.

For years, different guys manned the drums until they picked JB Mendrano to be the official drummer, often referred to as "permanent sessionist."

Each of the band members has a college degree. Naldy is a graduate of advertising and Leo of engineering, both from Lyceum. Ryan and Dexter took up computer science at AMA.

November 1993 saw the release of Orient Pearl's debut album from Ivory Records which included "Babaing Sorbetes," the Tagalog version of "Ice Cream," which was widely plugged in the underground music scene.

The group's popularity grew with the release of "Pagsubok", an inspirational rock ballad which reached the gold and platinum mark.

It was followed by another single, "Kasalanan," which became double platinum.

Ivory released their second album, curiously titled "Orient Pearl 3," an attempt to avoid the second-effort jinx that often plagued follow-ups to successful debuts.

The group decided to take a break from the scene following the not-too-successful waxing of an album for a now-defunct record outfit.

A lot of things happened in the personal lives of the band members. Naldy lost his greatest fan in his father, who passed away in 2000. He devoted his time to his pride and joy, his son Jose Carlito.

Ryan shed his long curly hair in favor of a cropped cut. He is now in an investment business and breeds a champion line of pitbulls.

Leo is into buying and selling cars.

Dexter's passion is his music studio where Orient Pearl recorded the demo for their comeback album. Unfortunately, the studio burned to the ground just a few days after they finished their demo.

When Ivory Records released "Legends Series: Orient Pearl Recollections" in May 2002, the group felt it was time to come back.

With the addition of JB Mendrano on drums, Orient Pearl returns with 10 new songs in "Pagbabalik."

Rock ballads are still the group's forte.

The carrier single is "Kung Aaminin Mo" and it sounds promising enough to duplicate the success of "Pagsubok."

A first for Orient Pearl is the use of a 12-string guitar in the acoustic number, "My Heart Belongs to You."

No Orient Pearl album would be complete without the upbeat cuts that relive the rock 'n' roll era of which they were, and still are, a part.

"Pagbabalik" is saying loud and clear that Orient Pearl is back.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GALING GALING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	D'URAGONS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WINDTALKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ABOUT A BOY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SAGAD
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PAGSAWAAN / 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
ODEON	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
ODEON-2	REPLICANT / HARI NG SELDA
ROBEN	SAGAD
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	JIHAD WARRIOR / NOT ANOTHER THING

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	SAGAD
REMAR	SAGAD
REMAR-2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAK

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	D'URAGONS
B	SAGAD
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-2	WINDTALKERS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GALING GALING
CINEMA-2	PAKISABI NA LANG
CINEMA-3	SAGAD
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	D'URAGONS
CINEMA-6	MEGGIDO
CINEMA-7	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-8	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-12	ABOUT A BOY
CINEMA-14	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-15	D'URAGONS

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-6	SELDA

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PAHANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

ABS-CBN goes on the offensive

FOR the past few months, GMA-7 has been heating up the TV network "wars" by launching a number of new shows, like the all-star soap "Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw" and the game show "Ready Txt Go."

The idea is to make inroads into ABS-CBN-2's dominant position on the local TV scene, and to put the rival channel on the defensive. The vigorous onslaught is deemed to be astutely timed, because ABS-CBN has been reeling from financial reverses of late.

But, if GMA thinks that ABS-CBN would give up its advantage without a fight, it has another think coming. In recent weeks, Channel 2 has come up with new programs of its own, with the view in mind of its competitor who really calls the shots and sets the pace on the local television scene.

Last month, the weekday magazine show, "etc.," with **Boy Abunda** as main host, started telecasting on the early-evening slot. And the "Morning Girls" talk-variety program hosted by best friends **Zsa Zsa Padilla**, **Kris Aquino** and **Pops Fernandez**, has replaced "Talk TV" as Channel 2's mid-morning weekday draw.

These two new shows' counterparts at Channel 7, "Xtra, Xtra" and "Sis," will have to hustle to remain competitive and keep from being upstaged, especially by the strong stellar appeal of "Morning Girls."

Other new shows are in the works, to be sequentially unveiled in the coming months. With ABS-CBN now on "attack" mode, GMA will have its work cut out for it just shoring up the gains it's made in the past few months.

Let the network wars intensify!

Quiz-show errors

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THANKS to **Loi Landicho** for this new compilation of wrong answers to quiz-show questions:

Quizmaster: *Sinong* John *ang bida sa pelikulang* "Grease"?

Contestant: **John Lennon**!

(I can't imagine a dancing Beatle! No, it's **John Travolta**.)

***

Quizmaster: *Anong* BF *ang karaniwang tawag sa pinakamalapit mong kaibigan*?

Male contestant: Boyfriend!

(Hmmmm . . . —No, it's Best Friend!)

***

Quizmaster: *Ano sa* Filipino *ang* grasshopper?

Contestant: *Tutubi*!

(No, it's *tipaklong*.)

***

Quizmaster: *Sinong* Ina *ang nagwaging* Best Actress *sa pelikulang* "Tuhog"?

Contestant: **Assunta De Rossi**!

(*Tuhugin*! There's only one Ina in local show biz—**Ina Raymundo**.)

***

Quizmaster: *Sinong dating* young actress *ang tinaguriang* "Star of the New Decade"?

Contestant: **Maricel Soriano**!

(No, it's **Manilyn Reynes**.)

***

Quizmaster: *Anong* city *sa* US *ang kilala rin sa katawagang* LA?

Contestant: Louisiana!

(*Malayo na 'yon*, huh! Of course, it's Los Angeles.)

'Star Trek: The Next Generation'

THIS hit TV series can be viewed locally every Sunday at 8 p.m. on the Star World channel. On the Starship Enterprise, the crew continues to explore new worlds, to seek out new life forms and civilizations.

Commanded by Capt. Jean-Luc Picard, the Enterprise crew consists of an android, Lt. Com. Data (**Brent Spiner**), a half Betazoid, Counselor Deanna Troi (**Marina Sirtis**), Chief Medical Officer Dr. Beverly Crusher (**Gates McFadden**), Klingon Worf (**Michael Dorn**), and Executive Officer William Riker.

Storylines this month: Aug. 11, "Interface": Geordi defies Picard's commands and risks his life in what appears to be a futile attempt to rescue his missing mother.

Aug. 18, "Gambit, Part 1": A team investigates the apparent death of Capt. Picard, who was supposedly killed in a bar fight. When Riker is abducted by a band of criminals who loot archaeological excavations, he is shocked to find Picard alive and well, and posing as a renegade archaeologist.

Aug. 25, "Gambit, Part 2": Picard and Riker masquerade as mercenaries in order to retrieve a potentially lethal Vulcan artifact.

("Star Trek" is replayed Saturdays at 9 a.m.)

Movies on TV

WATCH out for these promising movies on the tube this week. On the HBO channel:

Saturday, Aug. 10 at 8 a.m., "The Godfather Part III." 10:45 a.m., "Allan Quartermain and the Lost City of Gold." 1:10 a.m., "Frequency." Sunday, Aug. 11 at 1 p.m., "Girl, Interrupted." 10 p.m. "Bicentennial Man."

Monday, Aug. 12 at 6:30 a.m., "The Big Fix." Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 3 p.m., "The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas." Wednesday, Aug. 14 at 9 p.m., "Three Kings."

Young 'Alikabok' stars come into their own

THE SIGUION-REYNA blood undoubtedly runs in **Cris Villonco** and she's proud of it.

The granddaughter of actress-producer **Armida Siguion-Reyna** speaks her mind out. She's no longer the 14-year-old upstart whose decisions were hinged on her parents' approval. Now 18, Cris knows what she wants. She is, in fact, going to New York for her college studies at Sarah Lawrence School, where she plans to major in liberal arts.

"It's a four-year course so I'll probably come home only during school breaks or holidays," Cris says.

She is excited about college life in New York, where she'll live alone for the first time, thousands of miles away from her family.

She made the decision in the midst of a domestic drama after the separation of her parents—lawyer **Opap Villonco** and **Monique Siguion-Reyna Villonco**—and the breakup of her own relationship with her non-show biz boyfriend.

"I'm okay," Cris says. "There are so many things to look forward to. I can't just go on crying about that things that happened in my life."

As part of the main cast in the restaging of "Alikabok," Cris introduces herself with a strong emphasis on the Siguion-Reyna name.

There may be a tinge of bitterness on her voice when talk centers on her dad. Cris points out she has remained civil to him.

"If I bump into him, I still say 'hi'," she says. "After all, he's my dad. But it's much easier now to talk about what happened to my parents now and to my personal life. I guess I'm just more vocal than my two other sisters or my mom."

Cris hastens to add it's not her dad who's financing her New York education, but her lolo, lawyer **Leonardo Siguion-Reyna**.

"That's the truth," Cris says. "My dad didn't even have to approve of my decision. He simply knows that I'm going to college in New York."

Cris reprises the role of Bising, earlier played by **Rachel Alejandro**, in "Alikabok." The **Ryan Cayabyab** musical now runs at the Music Museum.

Also a show-biz scion is **Waya Gallardo**, daughter of **Celeste Legaspi**, who is making her theater debut in the musical.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

It took a long time for the 25-year-old Waya to follow in her mother's footsteps and discover that she can also sing.

"She casts a very long shadow," says Waya of her popular mom. "I took up creative writing and tried poetry and fiction. I took that from my dad (**Nonoy Gallardo**). But I guess performing is really in my blood. Thanks, mom, for giving me a job."

"Alikabok" is being restaged by its original producers, Musical Theater Philippines, with Celeste Legaspi and **Girlie Rodis** as partners.

"This version is simplified but more clarified," Celeste informs. "It highlights the music even better. The focus is on the Filipina."

This time, though, "Alikabok" has fewer cast members, as the producers also plan to bring the musical on tour.

"We're ready to travel," Girlie says. "We're taking 'Alikabok' everywhere."

Celebrity-studded parties

I ATTENDED two birthday parties Thursday night last week. Both were intimate, but had a number of celebrity guests.

Ethel Ramos had planned a small party, so only two long tables were initially reserved for dinner in a small function room at Banana Leaf at The Podium in Ortigas Center.

But with the number of people who know the birthday of Tita Ethel, the well-wishers spilled over to the main dining room, where another long table was added to accommodate more guests.

The executives of ABS-CBN were among the early guests, led by **Charo Santos-Concio** and sister **Malou**, **Pat-P Daza**, **Lawrence Tan**, **Aida Espiritu** and erstwhile Star Cinema boss **Jackie Liu**.

They joined a long table with lady producer **Marichu Vera-Perez Maceda** and talent managers **June Torrejon**, **Girlie Rodis**, **Shirley Kuan** and **Dolor Guevarra** with director-hubby **Boots Plata**.

"BABIES" NO MORE. Waya Gallardo with singer-mom Celeste Legaspi (right) and Cris Villonco with mom Monique Siguion-Reyna.

Also at the same table were **Michelle Tiangco**, wife of Navotas Mayor **Toby Tiangco** (who also joined the celebration later that night).

Mid-way into the dinner, the show-biz stars came one after another—**Bong Revilla Jr.**, **Edu Manzano**, **Aga Muhlach** and wife **Charlene Gonzales**, **Arlene Muhlach** and hubby **Warren**, **Andrea Bautista**, **Susan Roces** and **Joyce Jimenez**.

Seated at the other table were Regal Films matriarch **Lily Monteverde** and daughter **Roselle**, designer **Paul Cabral**, Aga's mom **Anita Aquino**, **Cristy Fermin** and Tita Ethel's sister **Chit Ramos**.

The other party that same night was the birthday of my friend, **Anjie Ureta**, who works as executive producer of a number of ABS-CBN shows—"Isyu," "Off the Record," "By Demand" and "Coffee Talk." She recently gave up the weekly magazine program, "F."

Anjie had a blast with a live band which played throughout the night. She had always dreamed of a party like that so it was a dream fulfilled for her.

"Isyu" was taped that night so **Korina Sanchez** and **Cito Beltran** were among Anjie's guests. In fact, Korina started the videoke singing, prompted by the pretty and very amiable "Coffee Talk" host, **Cheri Mercado**.

Korina was hesitant to get the microphone but a little more prodding from Anjie made the "TV Patrol" anchor sing "Close To You." With Korina was her boyfriend **Paul Aquino**.

Designer **Frederick Peralta** followed suit and crooned "You've Got a Friend."

"Off the Record" hosts **Randy David** and **Katrina Legarda** shared a table.

Karen Davila and husband **DJ Sta. Ana** were there, too.

Anjie's family members were there to share the important occasion with her.

At midnight, the guests chorused a "Happy birthday" song as the thirty-something Anjie blew the candles on her birthday cake.

She was obviously so happy that in her short speech to thank her guests, Anjie said, "If I die tonight, I'd still be very happy."

FREDERICK Peralta designs Katrina Legarda's outfits for "By Demand" and "Off the Record."

ABS-CBN corporate communications director and Aga Muhlach.

NOT MAKING THE SWITCH. GMA-7 star Bong Revilla Jr. simply laughs it out with ABS-CBN lady boss Charo Santos-Concio.

SEVEN-YEAR FRIENDSHIP. Anjie and Pia Guanio.

ANJIE with the hosts she has worked with—(seated from left) Ces Crilon, Korina Sanchez and Cheri Mercado.

ETHEL Ramos with her celebrity guests—(standing from left) Aga Muhlach, June Torrejon, Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco; and (seated from left) Charlene Gonzales, Edu Manzano and Bong Revilla Jr.

FILMDOM'S MATRIARCHS. Lily Monteverde (left) and Marichu Vera-Perez Maceda.

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WINDTALKERS P13 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10	MEN IN BLACK 2 P13 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45	KILLING ME SOFTLY R18 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

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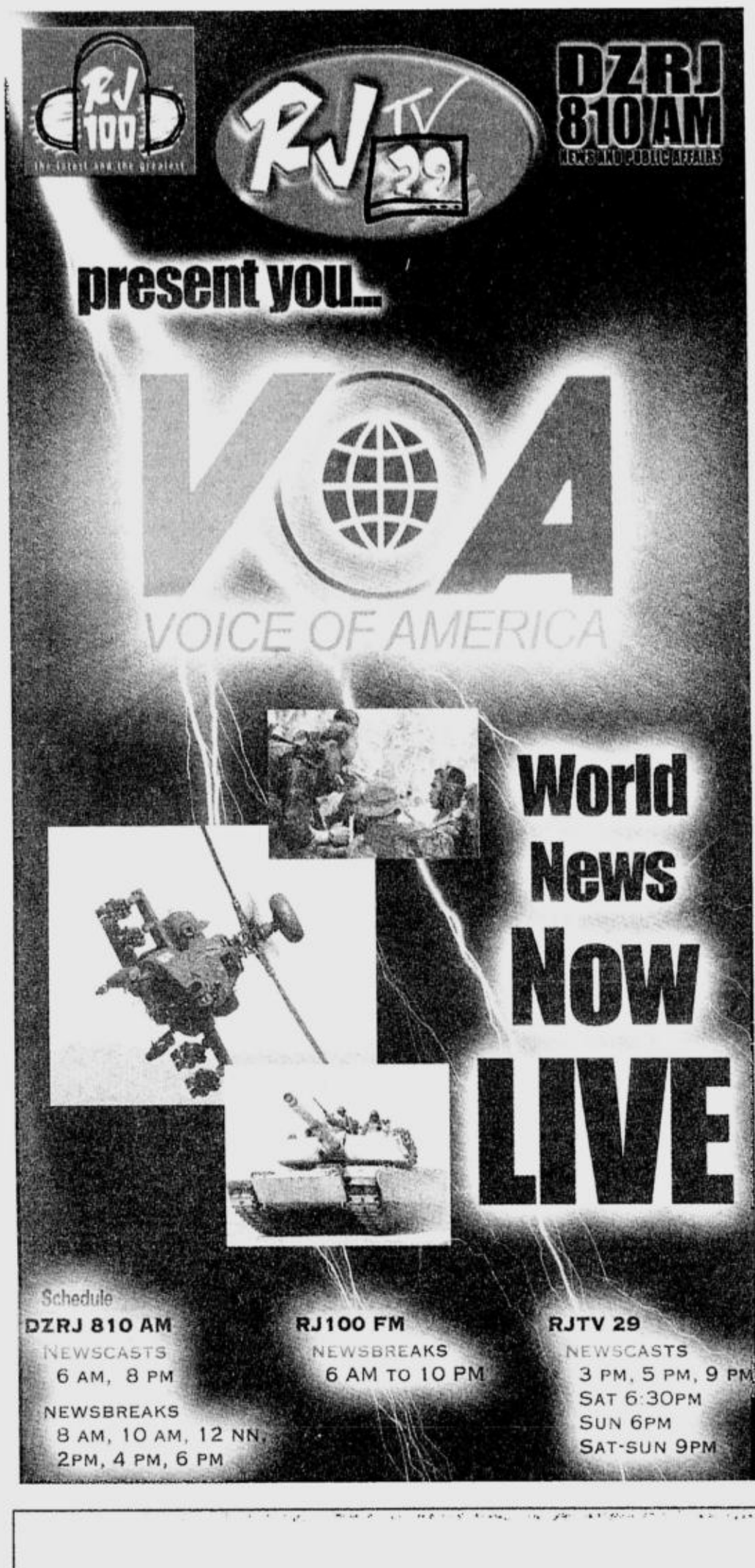
ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**



What to wear when and how, 44 times a month

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I WAS asked recently how I manage my clothes, considering that in a month, I appear on television a total of 44 times. The answer is, with a lot of creativity.

Since my outfits in "Game KNB" have to convey authoritativeness but still make me look reachable and friendly, I opt for separates in bright colors. If I wear a pant suit, I make sure to have a colorful, sometimes printed, blouse underneath. Most often, the production staff asks me to wear knee-length skirts to emphasize my femininity.

My writers, who seem obsessed with my feet, always insist that I wear open-toed stilettos. I am lucky because my designer, **Paul Cabral**, has managed to mix and match my collection of Thai silk blouses so that I can get multiple use out of them. The first time around, for instance, a blouse is paired with an ankle-length skirt, then with pants, and now with patch-work skirts.

Hip, colorful, loud

For "The Buzz," **Boy Abunda** and I normally let each other know, either on Friday night or on Saturday afternoon, what we are most likely going to wear on the Sunday show. For "The Buzz," it's okay to go as hip, colorful and loud as our respective ages may allow.

Boy is fond of black and denims. His legs are quite sexy and shapely, so the more hugging the pants, the better for him. And we both love shoes. He has a great collection of "deadly weapon" boots.

In "The Buzz," I have a tendency to wear a lot of my Custo Barcelona multi-colored and shockingly printed shirts. I also dare to wear see-through, or to show off some amount of cleavage, with the help of my Victoria's Secret Very Sexy Miracle Bra.

Non-threatening

In "Morning Girls," we were all given a directive to wear morning-friendly attire. We were advised to think of what we'd want to wear if we were going out for brunch with our girlfriends. In other words, non-threatening, non-diva like outfits.

We were asked to simplify our clothes, and not appear like we are all set to perform on-stage or quiz contestants. The clothes should convey that we are to be trusted, confidantes, buddies.

As a compromise, though, we are allowed to accessorize to our heart's content, since this is our way of showing our individuality. Thank God for this because I have so many new Swatch Bijoux bracelets, in nice eye-catching gel colors mixed with metal and pearls. I was also able to get pretty, semi-precious stones, either on silver necklaces or on suede cords, done by **Maritess Revilla**, brought to me by **Amy Perez**, who accompanied **Bernard** and **Mico Palanca**'s mom (herself a beautiful Revilla sister) to my taping.

Brighter, better

I am blessed because **Ben Chan** is a good friend of mine, and when I saw him at the birthday party of *Tito* **Douglas Quijano**, I asked if it would be possible for me to be sponsored by Her Bench. Ben told me to go to their Podium branch since this is where the complete collection can be found.

The blouses in Her Bench have flattering cuts, and, fortunately for me, they come in a rainbow of colors and textures. For my skin tone, the brighter the better. Especially for television, eye pleasing colors like aqua blue, minty green, bubble gum pink, and melon orange are flattering. Red also never fails, especially on Mondays. (I still try to practice wearing a shade of red or some touch of it to start the week.)

I was particularly taken by their three-quarter-length sleeved blouses, with just a touch of lycra for stretch and wearability. These will look great paired with painted and studded jeans, as well as printed skirts.

They also have some slightly funky colorful t-shirts with glass studs. For those of you looking for blouses and tops, Her Bench has an impressive collection, priced from P400 to P700. Great value for money.

Off-camera

For normal, out-of-camera life, I am most likely to be in jeans and sneakers (right now I love Nike Shox or Skechers slip-ons). Because I am forever feeling slightly cold (must be because of a lack of sleep), I've accumulated a lot of jean jackets as well as hooded, zippered sweatshirt jackets, and t-shirts, mostly Old Navy or Banana Republic form-fitting shirts that I buy at In Style at Glorietta. They wash well and are sporty without making you look less feminine.

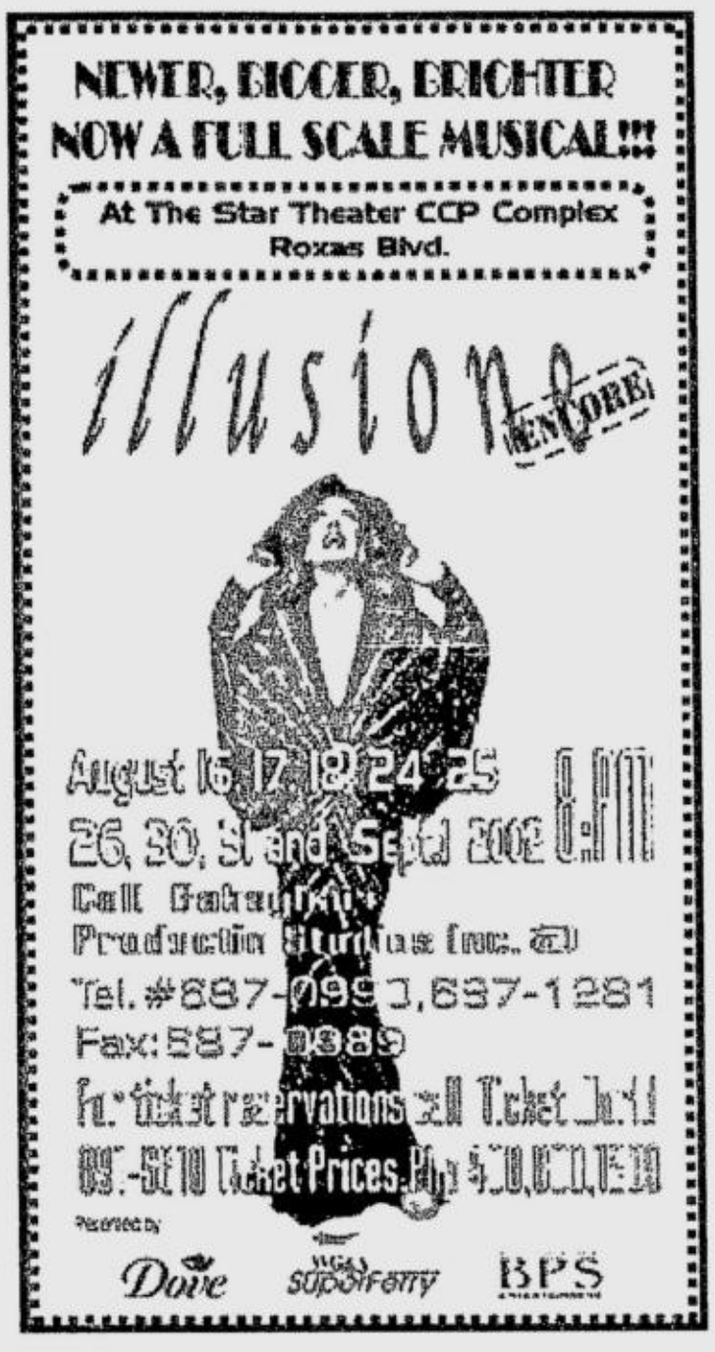
I must also take note of the fact that out of camera, I am most partial to wearing baby pink, powder blue, black, white, and grey, subdued colors as opposed to my TV colors. I'm not really sure if this is just a subconscious effort to blend, or it's my way to truly separate my on-screen persona from what is left of my private self.

Public expectations

This was exactly my attire when I was entering ABS-CBN before being made-up for my "Game KNB" taping last Friday. Sen. **Frank Drilon**, my *Tito* Frank, was waiting in the lobby for his vehicle and he politely asked if I had just come from or was headed for the gym.

I realized then that I must make more of an effort to look good when out of my home, since there is a certain level of expectations with regard to how a TV personality must dress when she is seen in public. No excuse to be dressed down, regardless of how comfortable and liberating it may be.

That's the price you pay when what you wear conveys and plays such a big role in how you earn a living.



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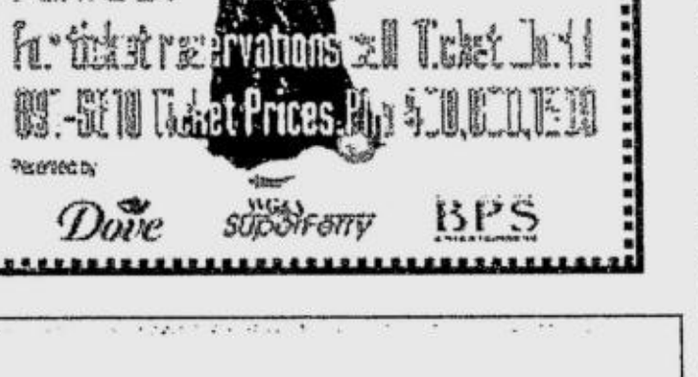

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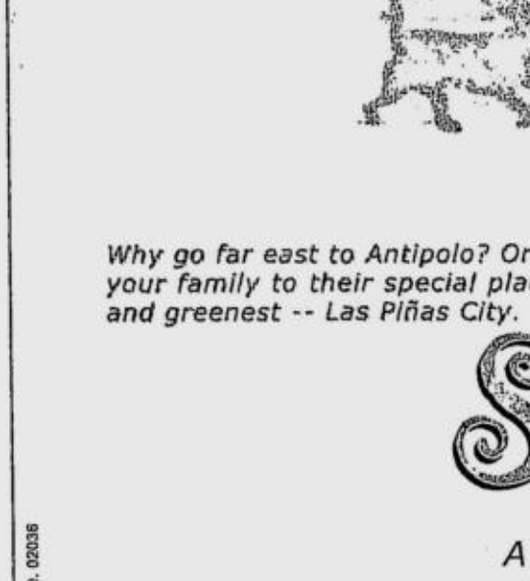

joey's moods

I Can See Clearly Now holly cole trio *Golden Girl* tattburger *Superwoman* noel pointer *Never Existed Before* minnie ripperton *Living Inside Your Love* earl klugh *Never Too Far* dianne reeves *Just An Illusion* najee *True* spandau ballet *After The Love Has Gone* damage *At Seventeen* tara maclean *Hardcore Poetry* tavares *Stay Awake* ronnie laws *I'm Sorry* everette harp *All My Reasons* noel pointer *Tabou* les nubians *They Can't Take That Away From Me* robbie williams

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B1

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Level of 'hot money' staying in RP up 748% in January-July

SMC sales jump 25%, net profit hits ₱3B in 1st half
STORY ON PAGE B2

By Clarissa S. Batino

PORTFOLIO investments in July registered a net outflow for the first time this year of $8.1 million, reflecting the market uncertainties and a marked pullout of investors from stock markets in emerging economies like the Philippines.

For the first seven months, however, the level of the so-called hot money still registered a net inflow of $185.7 million or 748 percent more than the $21.9 million a year ago.

Data submitted to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas by five custodian banks showed that the level of inbound funds from January to July rose by 6.68 percent or $57.1 million to $911.5 million from $854.4 million a year ago.

On the other hand, the hot money that went out during the same period dropped by 12.87 percent or by $107.2 million to $725.3 million from $832.5 million in the first seven months of 2001.

The level of net outflow in July 2001 was higher at $14.4 million, the BSP data showed.

The inflow of $73.2 million in July this year and the outflow of $81.3 million were both lower from their month-ago levels of $110.3 million and $83.8 million but higher than the $54.5 million and $68.9 million a year ago.

Analysts pointed to a "general confusion among global investors" as to where they would place their funds following the corporate scandals in the United States.

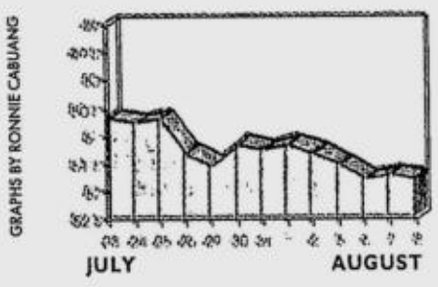
"With concerns on corporate America, investors naturally felt squeamish even with emerging markets and so we are hit as well," said an analyst from a local bank.

LEVEL/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
₱ 51.77 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 8, 2002

¥ 120.80 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 8, 2002

GOLD: $313.10/313.60
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 8, 2002

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks end up

STOCKS rebounded slightly for a second consecutive day yesterday, aided by bargain hunting in some oversold counters, traders said.

Further gains on Wall Street overnight and support for food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. also helped shore up the shaky bourse, which slumped to an eight-month low on Tuesday.

"I think we more or less took our lead from the increase in New York . . . fundamentally there is no reason for this market to go up at the moment but a technical bounce has been imminent," A&A Securities Inc. research head and chief analyst Astro del Castillo said.

The main index ended up 2.09 points, or 0.19 percent, at 1,093.25 points. Value

STOCKS/ B3

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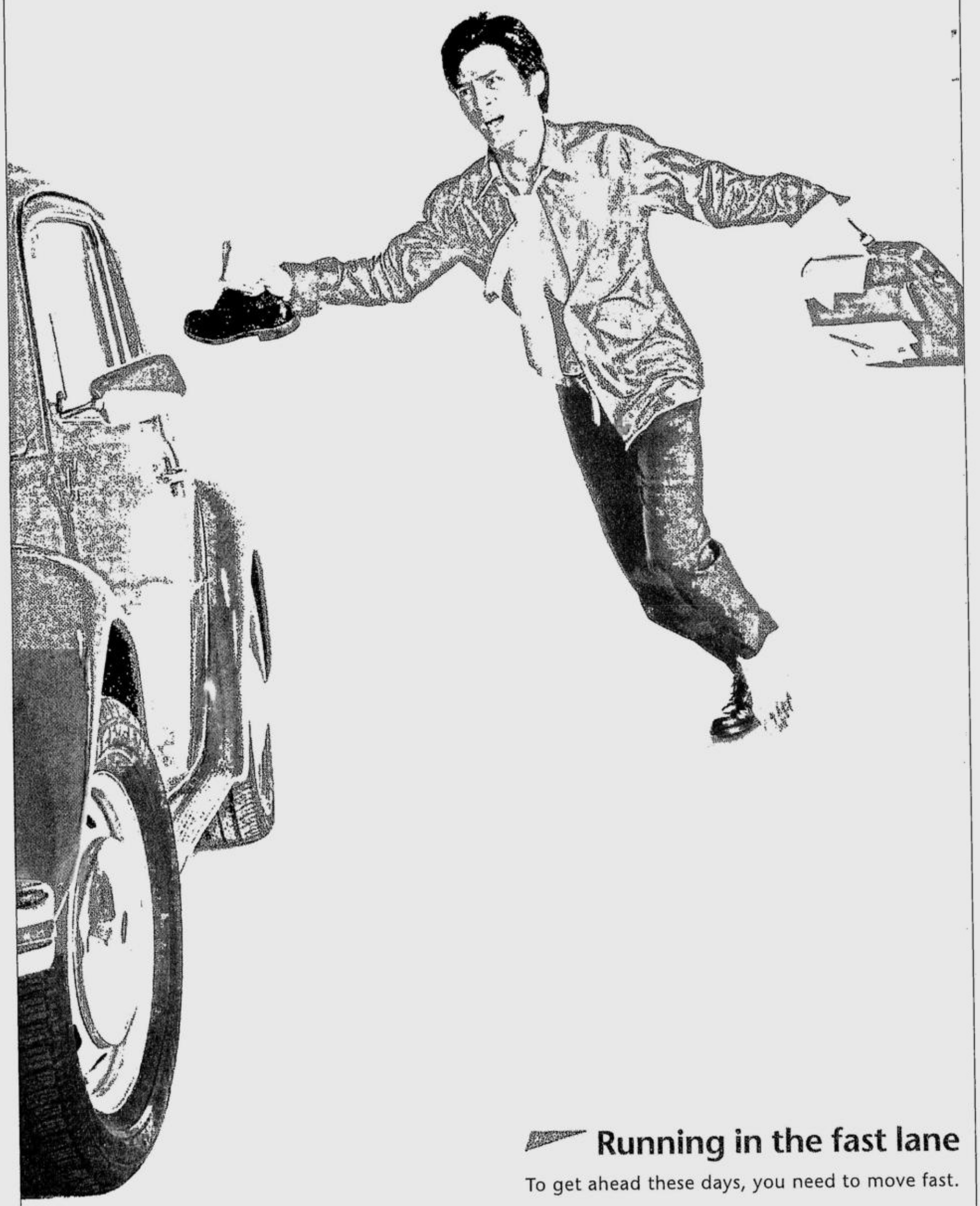
What Drives You



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SMC sales jump 25%, net profit hits P3B in 1st half

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. yesterday reported a consolidated net profit of P3.01 billion for the first six months of 2002, or 20 percent lower than the P3.77 billion a year ago due to the dilutive effect of recent acquisitions.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, SMC said it posted an 18-percent increase in operating income to P6.08 billion during the first semester on the back of a 25-percent growth in net sales to P66.11 billion.

For the second quarter alone, SMC said its operating profit jumped 27 percent to P3.55 billion as recent acquisitions started bearing fruit while revenues rose 17 percent to P35.94 billion.

The company attributed the robust revenue stream during the second quarter to gains from Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., domestic beer, glass and metal packaging as well as the feeds and processed meat segments.

SMC noted that on a recurring basis, net profit for the six-month period stood at P3.2 billion. However, it had to take into account P160 million in one-time expenditures related to integration.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) expanded by 50 percent in the second quarter to P5.4 billion from P3.61 billion last year, boosting the first-half EBITDA by 23 percent to P9.95 billion from a year ago.

The company has focused its efforts on expanding volumes, immediately realizing operational efficiencies and optimizing resources following several business acquisitions in 2001 that included CCBPI, Cosmos Bottling Corp. and Pure Foods Corp., the statement said.

"SMC implemented various programs to align operations, distribution, processes and systems," it said.

The realignment included consolidation of all the non-alcoholic products under CCBPI's umbrella and the merging of Pure Foods and SMC's food operations into San Miguel Pure Foods Co.

"The resulting structure in both these segments has allowed SMC to gain meaningful trade leverage and at the same time deliver a full range of products to the consumers," the company said.

"The completion of the ongoing business integration and distribution alignment is critical to achieve a solid platform for growth and long-term profitability," it said.

SMC is also shifting to dealership schemes in order to enhance its position in the processed meats, soft drink and non-carbonated beverage markets.

"By managing resources on a group-wide level, SMC was able to leverage its buying power and realize economies of scale. SMC also expects to capitalize on the pooling of expertise between various companies and subsidiaries," it said.

Ayala group reports 4% profit hike

CONGLOMERATE Ayala Corp. posted a 4-percent growth in consolidated net profit to P2.54 billion in the first semester of the year from a year ago on lower debt financing charges and stable earnings from core businesses in banking, property and telecommunications.

Interest and other financing charges were slashed by 31 percent to P2.12 billion as debt levels and benchmark interest rates dropped, although profits were still tempered by lower interest income and the absence of extraordinary gains from the sale of food unit Pure Foods Corp., which shored up earnings last year, the company disclosed yesterday.

Property unit Ayala Land Inc. maintained its profitability despite the continued slump in the property sector but recorded a 4-percent decline in net income to P1.07 billion in the first semester from a year ago. It said recurring rental revenue from shopping centers and office properties continued to shore up earnings, accounting for 29 percent of total revenues as occupancy rates remained significantly above market.

Earlier, it was reported that another core subsidiary, Bank of the Philippine Islands, posted a 24-percent drop in profits to P2.66 billion during the same period in 2001 due to the weak corporate demand for credit and lower spreads arising from the downtrend in interest rates.

On the other hand, the third core subsidiary Globe Telecom chalked up P3.08 billion in the first half, 21 percent higher than a year ago on a 45-percent rise in revenues driven by the continued growth in subscriber base and margin improvement.

Ayala Corp. president and chief executive officer Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II said the conglomerate continued to be in a strong financial and competitive position.

STANDARD CHARTERED MARKS 130 YEARS
Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), the country's first foreign bank, unveils its new corporate logo to mark its 130 years of service in the Philippines. With SCB's chief executive for the Philippines Annemarie Durbin (center) during the unveiling are (from left): British Ambassador Paul Dimond, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, former President Fidel V. Ramos and Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas.

Stockbrokers remain divided on longer trading hours issue

STOCKBROKERS at the Philippine Stock Exchange are still divided over a proposal to return to half-day trading versus an option to adopt longer trading hours in the afternoon, according to the latest survey conducted by the PSE management.

The survey showed that 45 respondents or about 38 percent favored a return to half-day trading while a close 37 percent or 43 respondents favored the proposed 2-4 p.m. trading slot following the morning session.

PSE president Ernest Leung said that there were 115 respondents in the survey, of which 27 brokers or 23 percent did not choose any of the available options.

With the tight results of the survey, some brokers said the PSE board would have more reason to approve longer trading hours in the afternoon as against a return to half-day trading, especially since the proponents included the brokers with the biggest value turnover share at the local stock market.

Leung met with the PSE's floor trading and arbitration committee yesterday to discuss the survey results.

This developed as no less than Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had cautioned the PSE against reverting to a half-day trading. The Philippines used to be one of the few remaining stock exchanges in the world which operated only during the morning session.

Leung had said the results of the survey were "an important but not the only factor" to be considered by the PSE board in setting the trading hours.

Among those lobbying for a 2-4 p.m. trading slot was a group of foreign brokers which accounted for a big bulk of the market's total value turnover.

Some foreign brokerage houses have also said they might be prompted to close shop if they could not generate enough business to justify continued operation in the Philippines. The first casualty of thin trading volumes in the market this year among the foreign brokers was DBS Vickers Securities Philippines.

Doris Dumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, August 8, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15.5	16	15.5	15.75	250,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43.5	42.5	43	1,172,400
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	40
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	29	29	54,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35	35.5	35	35	244,400
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	9,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	215	215	215	215	350
Manulife Financial Corp.	1210	1210	1210	1210	10
Sun Life Financial Serv.	900	900	895	900	430
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	3,800
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.57	0.58	0.55	0.55	2,960,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	490	490	480	480	6,310
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.033	0.035	0.033	0.033	2,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.023	0.023	7,100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	285	287.5	277.5	277.5	150,380
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	4,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	6,000
Manila Electric Co. B	27	27	26.5	27	61,700
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.64	1.64	2,925,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	60,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	190,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	880,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.45	175,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.72	5,270,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	10,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	17,200
RFM Corp.	0.82	0.84	0.81	0.81	330,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	48.5	46.5	48.5	466,700
San Miguel Corp. B	51	52.5	51	52.5	242,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	1,405,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.3	2.26	2.26	13,530,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	15,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	16,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.29	1,160,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	20,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.065	0.075	0.065	0.075	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	2,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	11.5	12.25	11.5	12	1,083,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.08	800,000
Ionics Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	14,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	26,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.61	1,760,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.245	0.26	0.245	0.26	1,810,000
Music Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.17	0.17	780,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	80,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	2,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	12,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5	5	4.8	4.8	18,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	4,350,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	28,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	70,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	680,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.66	1.74	10,618,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	10,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	10,290,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	3,232,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,020,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	660,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	570,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
Interport Res.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	5,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	8,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	5,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000

CURRENCIES

Aug. 8, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.025957	1.000000	51.8130
Japan	Yen	0.008530	0.008314	0.4308
United Kingdom	Pound	1.578332	1.538400	79.7091
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.131535	0.128207	6.6428
Switzerland	Franc	0.685800	0.668449	34.6343
Canada	Dollar	0.650451	0.633995	32.8492
Singapore	Dollar	0.582103	0.567376	29.3975
Australia	Dollar	0.550702	0.536769	27.8116
Bahrain	Dinar	2.721515	2.652661	137.4423
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.273589	0.266667	13.8168
Brunei	Dollar	0.577809	0.563190	29.1806
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000110	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.024208	0.023596	1.2226
UAE	Dirham	0.279362	0.272294	14.1084
Korea	Won	0.000853	0.000831	0.0431
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.974700	50.5021
Argentina	Real	0.284198	0.277008	14.3526
Brazil	Real	0.334951	0.326477	16.9158
Denmark	Kroner	0.134640	0.131234	6.7996
India	Rupee	0.021110	0.020576	1.0661
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.270025	0.263193	13.6368
Mexico	New Peso	0.105421	0.102754	5.3240
New Zealand	Dollar	0.466705	0.454897	23.5696
Norway	Kroner	0.133079	0.129712	6.7208
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017272	0.016835	0.8723
South Africa	Rand	0.098536	0.096043	4.9763
Sweden	Kroner	0.107364	0.104648	5.4221
Syria	Pound	0.019960	0.019455	1.0080
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030489	0.029718	1.5398
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000760	0.000741	0.0384

DISCLOSURES

HIGHLANDS Prime Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 22, 2:30 p.m., at the Clermont Room, Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

• • •

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **Sinophil Corp.** shall be held on Aug. 22, 1:30 p.m., at the Sta. Maria Room, Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

• • •

WILLIAM, Gothong and Aboitiz Inc. said Bernardo Villegas was duly elected as its independent director for the ensuing year.

• • •

CENTRO Escolar University identified Corazon Tiongco and Emil Javier as its independent directors.

• • •

ACESITE (Philippines) Hotel Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 21, 4 p.m., at the Nautilus I Function Room of Holiday Inn Manila, Ermita, Manila.

Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

Level of 'hot money' . . .

From page B1

The slight pullout of investors from the local stock and fixed-income markets took place even after the strong pronouncements from President Macapagal-Arroyo during her State of the Nation Address that she would put the house in order and seriously address the problems on peace and order.

Still, the central bank said it was expecting more portfolio funds to come in during the coming months alongside an increase in foreign direct investment as the economy continued to perform well.

July inflation of 2.6 percent was the lowest in 30 months and the export sector continued to post substantial growth as of June.

The BSP also credited the encouraging inflow of portfolio funds for helping boost the country's balance of payments, an economic indicator based on movements in trade, investment, and borrowings.

This year, portfolio investments may not be as erratic as the previous years, the central bank said, even as the nature of hot money was normally fleeting and largely sentiment driven.

Foreign portfolio funds are normally invested in stocks, government securities, mutual funds and insurance.

Last year, the country recorded a net portfolio inflow of $68.7 million, representing a sharp turnaround from a net outflow of $149 million in 2000.

The central bank data came from Citibank N.A., Standard Chartered Bank, Deutsche Bank, HSBC, and ING Barings. The five foreign banks account for 95 percent of total foreign fund flows.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

SECOND INVITATION TO SUBMIT REHABILITATION PROPOSALS

For the closed Unitrust Development Bank

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC), as Receiver, is inviting interested parties to submit rehabilitation proposals for the closed Unitrust Development Bank (UDB).

The deadline for the submission of requirements for pre-qualification purposes is on **August 15, 2002.** Only those found eligible after pre-qualification may submit rehabilitation proposals. The deadline for the submission of rehabilitation proposals is on **August 30, 2002.**

The list of pre-qualification requirements and the bidding guidelines under this invitation shall be made available for free to interested parties during office hours from **August 12 to August 15, 2002** at the Office of the Vice President, Risk Management Group III, 2nd Floor, PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila.

The PDIC and the committee constituted for this purpose reserve the right to reject any or all rehabilitation proposals, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the proponents for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of the rehabilitation proposal and to negotiate and approve any proposal submitted which PDIC may consider to be most advantageous to the depositors and creditors of UDB. The decision of PDIC in this regard shall be final and binding.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
Receiver

Goodwill and ill will

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

NATIONAL Bookstore matriarch Socorro Ramos could not visit her dying brother, Manuel Cancio of Goodwill Bookstore, without security guards watching her inside the ICU room.

At the wake for the Goodwill patriarch, the floral wreath sent by House Speaker Jose de Venecia and his wife Gina, who are not on friendly terms with Cancio daughter Maria Teresa (Marites) and estranged husband Rep. Rolex Suplico, was consigned beside the toilet outside the Forbes chapel.

(Gina de Venecia is a cousin of Marites, who was adopted by the Cancios along with younger sister Donna.)

These and other sordid details are now emerging on the sidelines of the ongoing probate hearings on the disputed Cancio will at the Makati Regional Trial Court.

In addition to the bookstore chain, the Cancio estate includes industrial lots in Laguna, an Urdaneta Village house, several condominium units in Makati, Parañaque, and Baguio as well as the JMC Printing Press. In all, the estate has been estimated to be worth a conservative P1 billion.

According to the grapevine, the old man received a P400-million cash windfall from Kimberly-Clark shortly before his death, after the US multinational decided to buy out the Cancio stake in a joint venture just to finish the much-publicized Suplico-generated public hearings and court cases against Kimberly-Clark.

(Because of the troubles with its erstwhile silent partners, Kimberly-Clark decided to relocate a large chunk of its tissue paper business to Thailand, a transfer bewailed by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo during her last State of the Nation Address. But that is another story.)

Since the June 29 death of the Goodwill patriarch, two wills have emerged, the first actually being read out to the Cancio heirs, including the Cancio-Ramos branch.

The will that is now being probated before the Makati court is the second will, which left out Socorro Ramos and even Rep. Suplico from any inheritance.

In the first will, dated Jan. 4, 2000, the National Bookstore matriarch and the Cancio nephews and nieces were supposed to have received a total of 25 percent of the Cancio estate. That provision was entirely deleted in the second will, dated Aug. 25, 2001.

The second will also removed Rep. Suplico as administrator of Goodwill Bookstore and the properties the old man left to his two young grandchildren with Suplico.

The second will instead named Dr. Albert Madrilejo, a nephew of the patriarch, as the executor of the testament.

According to the grapevine, the Iloilo solon was effectively cut off from the estate by his father-in-law after the patriarch got wind of Suplico's second family in the province.

More lurid details are expected to come out in the continuation of the hearings this morning.

No free lunch

AFTER feeding her and her first son's wedding guests, Philtrust Bank/Manila Hotel owner Emilio Yap has filed a strong opposition to his *kumare* in Malacañang against her reappointing Monetary Board Member Teodoro Montecillo.

Montecillo's sin? He happens to be the younger brother of ex-Bulletin corporate secretary and now Menzi estate executor Manuel Montecillo. The elder Montecillo just happens to claim that the real majority owner of the Bulletin is the sequestered Menzi estate, not Yap.

The six-year term of Montecillo, the ex-Citibanker, expired on Aug. 6, but he and one other MB member whose term has also ended, Vicente Valdepeñas, had been advised that Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho have both recommended their reappointments.

Montecillo and Valdepeñas are considered workhorses in the board, in addition to being team players.

The smart money, however, is on the GMA *kumpare* winning against the central bank governor and the finance secretary.

Heard through the grapevine

PASAY RTC Judge Eleuterio Guerrero has been ordered by the Supreme Court to continue the probate hearings on the estate of the late Banco Filipino/BF Homes patriarch Tomas Aguirre.

Guerrero had earlier granted a motion to inhibit himself at the insistence of the lawyers of Banco Filipino vice chair Albert "Bobby" Aguirre.

Aguirre claimed that the judge was leaning toward his younger sister, Nanette, an accusation the judge staunchly denies.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Stocks end up

From page B1

turnover edged up to P279.84 million from P252.15 million on Wednesday.

San Miguel gained ground after posting first-half results broadly in line with market expectations, even though its net income of P3.01 billion was down 20 percent year-on-year.

The decline was expected with the company forking out sizeable sums for one-off restructuring costs associated with its Coca-Cola operations that were reacquired last year.

Strong revenues also pointed to continued solid consumer demand for food and beverage products. *Reuters*

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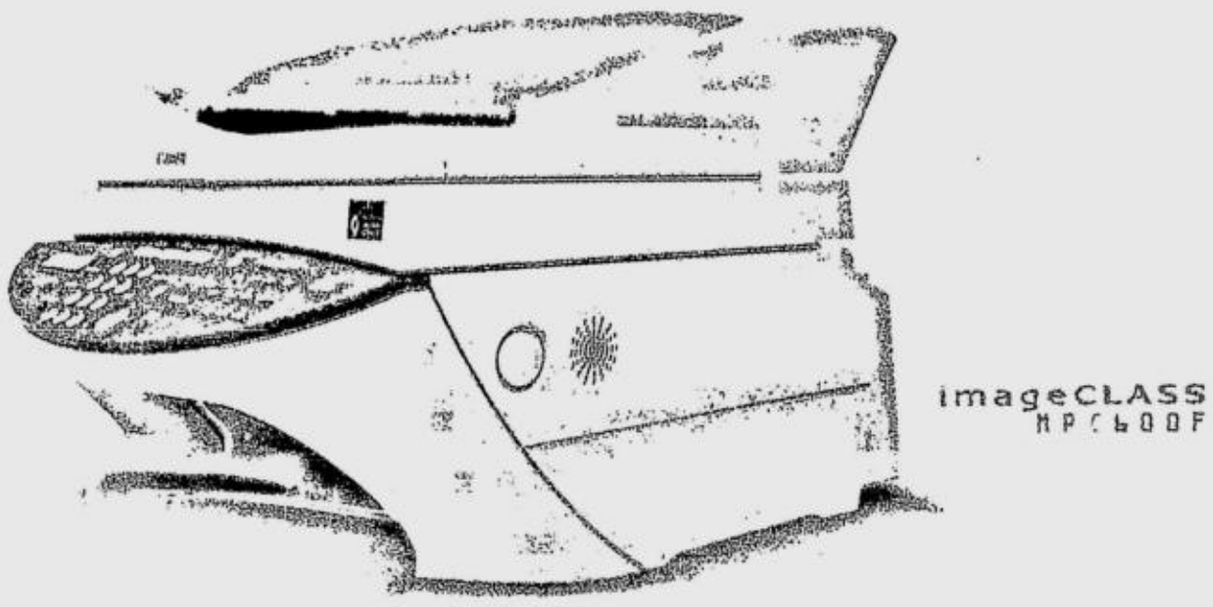

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PHILTREAD HOLDINGS CORPORATION
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NOTICE TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF PHILTREAD HOLDINGS CORPORATION

Please be informed that on 2 August 2002, the Securities and Exchange Commission approved certain amendments to the Amended Articles of Incorporation of Philtread Holdings Corporation, including the amendment to Article SEVENTH thereof de-classifying the Class "A" and Class "B" common shares of the Corporation and accordingly providing for a single class of common shares without any distinctions.

Accordingly, from the date of the aforesaid approval by the SEC, all issued and outstanding common shares of the Corporation shall be deemed to be unclassified common shares of the Corporation without distinctions, without need of replacing any previously issued and outstanding stock certificates. As of said date, all previously issued and outstanding stock certificates, whether denoted as covering Class "A" or Class "B" common shares, shall be deemed to cover an equal number of unclassified common shares of the Corporation without any distinctions.

Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

August 5, 2002.

GEMMA M. SANTOS
Corporate Secretary

'GOV'T MISGUIDED, MISINFORMED'

RP seen gaining from change in tuna quota system

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE US government yesterday said the Macapagal administration was misguided and misinformed in criticizing the grant of duty-free access of tuna exports from Ecuador to the United States under the recently approved Andean Trade Preference Act.

In a speech before business groups led by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis J. Ricciardone said: "It is a victory for your government and industry, and anyone who would suggest that the legislation that came out was deficient in some way does not have the full facts. This is a happy story; the Philippines did not suffer here and no one should feel disappointed.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II earlier issued a statement expressing the government's "extreme disappointment" over the approval of the ATPA.

The Andean agreement gave goods from Andean countries, including tuna, duty-free access to the US market. The approval of the ATPA, Roxas said, disregarded the Philippines' lobbying for equal access in view of the government's all-out support to the US war on terrorism.

"There has been some misplaced concerns on this issue. The only trade advantage given to Andean producers, specifically Ecuador, was for pouched tuna. As far as I know, the Philippines does not produce pouched tuna or what little is produced here does not go to the US. It is not a factor in the US market," Ricciardone said.

He said that even with the duty-free perks, pouched tuna would still cost about twice as much as the canned tuna in supermarkets in the US.

Ricciardone noted that the shift from tuna production to tuna consumption as the basis for measuring the annual allocation for preferred canned tuna exports of the Philippines to the US had actually benefited the Philippines. This, he explained, was because it would increase the shipments by 5.8 percent from 2.4 million cases yearly to 2.54 million cases.

In his previous statement, Roxas said the eligible tuna products covered those packed in foil or other flexible air-tight containers with a maximum weight limit of 6.8 kilograms. He said these were in direct competition with the Philippines' canned tuna exports to the US that were slapped duties of between 6 percent and 12.5 percent.

He cited a US International Trade Commission study that showed that pouches accounted for almost all of growth in export volume of tuna products from Andean countries over the last two years. During this period, Ecuador's exports grew by 8,290 tons while Philippine canned tuna exports fell 3,966 tons.

Roxas noted that the ATPA changed the basis in computing the quota allocations for the preferred 6 percent duty from 29 percent of US canned tuna production to 4.8 percent of canned tuna consumption. "This is commercially meaningless because they amount to the same volume of approximately 2.5 million cases," Roxas said.

GLOBE Telecom president and CEO Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr. presides over the company investors' briefing, reporting a P3.1-billion net income for the first half of 2002. Globe also reported a consolidated net revenue of P22.4 billion. With Ablaza in the briefing are (from left) Globe chief financial officer Delfin C. Gonzalez Jr. and Globe SVP for wireline business Gil B. Genio.

Globe sets capex at $500M

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBE Telecom Inc. said it would borrow less in the next two years as it trimmed down its capital expenditures to only $500 million, small enough to be funded by internally generated cash, for 2003 and 2004.

In an interview after the company's investors briefing Wednesday, Globe senior vice president and chief financial officer Delfin Gonzalez Jr. said the major part of the firm's network had already been built so there was no longer a need to set aside a huge budget for capital expenditure.

"We expected capex to peak in 2001 and 2002. After that, it starts coming down. Funding for the next two years will come mainly from internal cash generation and a little borrowings," he said.

Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza added that the company's "overhead network" had already been put in place and that additional spending would only be for radio capacity.

The cellular service provider's capex for 2001 was placed at $751 million with around 85 percent of the amount invested in the wireless sector. For this year, $651 million was set aside for capex, consisting of $258 million in newly raised funds and about $350 million to $400 million in carryover funds from last year. About 60 percent of the amount was earmarked for further expansion of the company's wireless business.

In the first half of the year, Globe has spent $220 million of its capex budget.

Gonzalez said Globe was currently studying an $85-million loan proposal from an export credit agency to help fund the firm's remaining unfunded projects for the year.

Meanwhile, Globe is still waiting for cash-strapped US telecom firm Worldcom to remit the remaining $3.7 million of the $10 million that it owed Globe.

Ablaza explained that Globe had made full provisions in its books for the entire amount, although he said he remained optimistic that the telecom would not default on its obligations.

Public warned on illegal LPGs

THE GOVERNMENT and the liquefied petroleum gas industry are stepping up a campaign against the production and sale of substandard LPG cylinders and the illegal refilling of LPG tanks.

In line with the campaign, the National Bureau of Investigation issued a warning that countless households might be exposed to serious accidents due to the use of illegally refilled liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders.

This came in the wake of the NBI's crackdown on business establishments engaged in the distribution of substandard cylinders and illegally refilled tanks. NBI agents recently confiscated several millions of pesos worth of equipment and LPG cylinders following lightning raids on this type of operations in Pasig City and Malabon.

Raided by the NBI were Republic Gas Corp. (Regasco) and Omni Gas Corp. The raids were conducted based on search warrants issued by RTC Judge Nemesio Felix. The raids yielded LPG cylinders bearing popular LPG brands. The two refilling plants were reportedly not authorized to use, refill or distribute the said LPG brands.

According to Ferdinand Lavin, chief of the NBI Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, the raids are being undertaken following massive complaints from individuals and local communities about the operation of these establishments. The NBI had also monitored reports of accidents, usually explosions, in households that reportedly use illegally refilled LPG cylinders.

Managing conflicting objectives

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

WHAT value does success in career have if it has been achieved at the expense of the family? What profit does a successful businessman gain, if he earns billions of pesos, owns mansions, travels around the world and cavorts with an array of girls, women and ladies, but loses his own wife, is hated by his own daughters and is the mortal enemy of his own son? Can success in business really make up for failure at home?

Which then is more important, wealth or family? A great number of us in the corporate jungle would readily and spontaneously declare that our family is our top priority. But do we walk our talk? Are we willing to translate our mindsets into concrete actions? Day by day, we are confronted by the ultimate question of which is in the top of our minds: Our children or our customers?

I don't know how you guys, out there, would answer that question. In my case, I have made serious mistakes, monumental errors. If I have to reinvent my life, I should make substantial and strategic changes. There is a need to overhaul my priorities, to rechannel the efforts that I have been exerting with passions and commitment. I thought all along that when we work hard for our career, we are doing all that for the family.

In the past, when two phone calls were made simultaneously, I'd always pick up the phone where my boss would tell me about business goals, operating objectives, budgets and probable problems. I would ask the other caller, usually my wife or son, to wait because the boss should not be made to wait. That call can make or unmake my career.

I now realize that the call in the other line could make or unmake a family. Today, I know better. It is not a choice between my children and my customers. My children are my top customers. It is not a choice between my family and my employer. My family is the reason why I need employers. Employers come and employers go but one's family will remain even beyond the grave. They even take care of our graves.

In the past, when there was a conflict of schedule between the demands of my job and the school affairs of my kids, I'd tend to preponderate toward the official duty and delegate the affairs of my kids to my wife. I used to operate under a paradigm that I should focus on duty first before pleasure. Now I know that my first duty is toward my loved ones. I should put my time where my heart belongs.

Today, if I have to do it all over again, I'd reverse my priorities. My son will graduate from grade school only once. I'll make sure I'll be there to applaud him whether there are medals to pin or nothing at all. It is his day, I, the dad should share the moments with him. Those moments won't ever come back. The company function will soon be forgotten and a week from now, no one would remember I wasn't there. But the son will always remember.

I used to tell my mom and dad that I could never forgive them for boycotting my high school graduation. I had three medals to pin—academic, leadership and literary, but there was no loved one to pin them. No dad, no mom to share those precious moments with. Of course, they made up later in my college graduation and I have forgiven them, but it was a different set of moments.

This time, I'm willing to become an average corporate official, a so-so business executive but a great father. I'm willing to be reprimanded by my boss for a late report but not hated by a daughter for not remembering her birthday. There are more important matters compared to corporate business meetings. Family, peace and love—these are the ones that matter most.

But I speak only for myself. I do not impose values on you guys, out there. If you think possessions are more important than family, go ahead. Spend 20 hours in the office, bring home your corporate work. Neglect your wife. Don't spend quality time with your kids. Don't attend important family gatherings.

Play golf with your business partners. Travel twice even thrice a week. Don't call home. Delegate raising the children to your spouse. Leave the young kids to the nannies. Let the drivers bring your boys to school. Ask others to represent you in college graduations and parents' council meetings. Focus on your business.

If your wife starts spending more time with others, and ultimately decide to leave you for good, don't mind it. You have your career. If your kids become drug addicts, substance abusers, alcoholics, allow them. Give them a lot of money to make up for your absences. Buy their love with your cash.

If you have aging parents, don't visit them. Send them cakes or flowers or wines. Don't call them or greet them on their birthdays and anniversaries. Spend all your time in the company. It is the one that provides you the material comforts of a young, up and coming executive. The perks, status, image and pride.

But if, at the end, you lose all your loved ones after neglecting them, face all the consequences. Savor your business success alone. Enjoy your career in isolation. Drink, dance and be merry. No wife, no kids, no family. You are alone and pretending to be happy.

Don't blame your company. Don't lay the burden on your boss. You made the choice. You opted to put more value on your career. You gambled and you lost. I know of a Cabinet member—rich, famous, powerful—who, at the end of the road, had pulled a trigger to his head. He got everything and he lost everything. That is the tragedy of it all.

As for me, I know better. After all the pains, the burdens of mistaken priorities, I have made my choice. Anytime, anywhere, my family comes first. My career, my business, all my other pursuits are only means to the end of all my sacrifices, my wife, my sons, my daughters, my family. I shall thus manage my various objectives well. There shall not be conflicting objectives anymore. For I now know clearly my priorities. And I shall be faithful to them.

Money, mansions, travels and girls? I shall willingly give them up for and in the name of my family. That is as simple and as straightforward as that.

Husband-wife team's new solution to old 'anay' woes

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SUCCESS STORY

THE NEXT time the President bellyaches about the *anay* infesting Malacañang, she should consult one of her lawyers (who was part of the brilliant prosecution team in the Estrada impeachment trial) who got rid of termites by calling up Pest-Away, a fast-growing pest control firm.

Pest-Away's Jonathan David recalled that when he visited the government lawyer's house two years ago, he was threatened with a lawsuit should his pest control solution fail miserably.

"The lawyer told us that he filed a case against the first pest control firm (one of the leaders in the industry) he hired because it did not live up to its promise. I was scared but was still confident that our solution (Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System) would work even though the technology was still new at that time," David said. "Fortunately, we solved the lawyer's termite problem and he remained one of our satisfied customers."

New technology

Sentricon introduced the bait technology in lieu of the traditional surface and soil treatments that used liquid chemicals to eliminate termite colonies. Sentricon uses an insect growth regulator called hexaflumuron that stops the termites' vital molting process. These are carried by worker termites from the bait and passed on to other worker termites. The entire colony soon collapses after the worker termites are wiped out since no one would feed the soldier and queen termites.

David said Pest-Away was among the first batch of pest control firms tapped by Dow AgroSciences to introduce the bait technology in the Philippines. The husband-and-wife enterprise started with a capital of P40,000 and only two employees with David and his wife, Arlene, personally handling marketing and operations.

Both Jonathan and Arlene have an extensive experience in selling pest control products to government agencies and private clients because the latter's family runs a business selling pesticide. "My in-laws' business helped us when we were starting as we were able to save on inventory costs," David said.

It now has 400 clients in Metro Manila and other key cities in Luzon. The company is now considered one of the leading providers of Sentricon technology in the country with sales growing an average of 75 percent over the last three years when the country faced a political and economic crisis.

David said they started the business with a clear vision and hope that their company would help professionalize the country's pest control business which, despite the dominance of a handful of players, is still composed of hundreds of backyard operators.

Investments

David said they had developed a brand that people would easily recall and associate with professional pest control. "We trained our people and spent for their uniforms. We put up an office at home, and invested in service vehicles to ensure good service," David said.

David said the couple applied what Arlene learned from her class in the Asian Institute of Management where she was among the first graduates of the school's Masters in Entrepreneurship program. Pest-Away was Arlene's required business plan in the ME course.

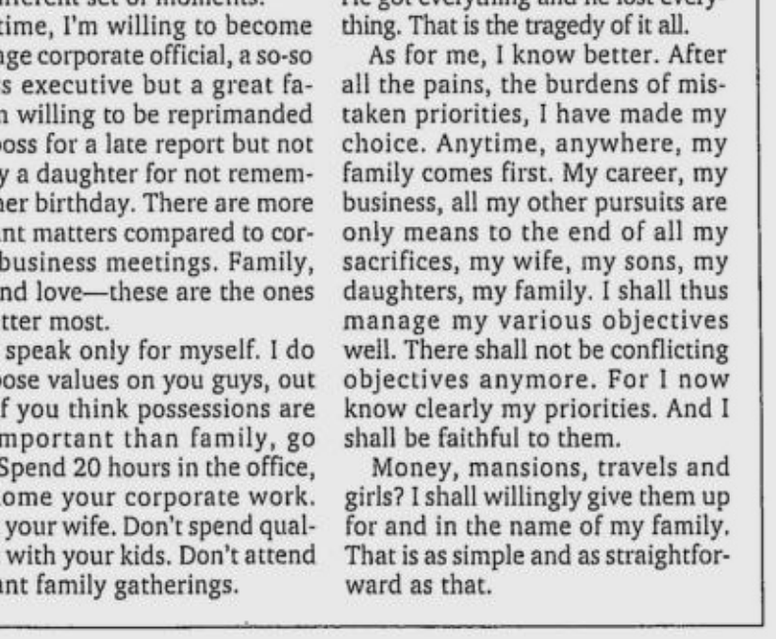
The biggest challenge in the business is in convincing clients that it is worth paying a premium (at least P40,000 for a 400-square-meter lot) for a pest control solution, he says. "The price remains the biggest consideration by clients and the key is to explain to them how it works and to ensure that we deliver on what we promise."

Arlene said the first few months of the company were the most difficult times for the couple. "Getting the first client was hard. But once we got a few of our friends to try our system, the ball just started rolling."

Key factor

To ensure full customer satisfaction, Pest-Away adopted a "one-customer-at-a-time" policy to get more businesses from their client base. Customer service is a key factor in the business because the Sentricon system requires constant client interaction with the regular check-up by service personnel.

"We depend on word-of-mouth or referrals to get new clients and it is difficult to lose one client. We make sure that we retain all our customers by exceeding their needs. We train our staff not only how to apply the system but also how to deal with customers."



JONATHAN AND ARLENE

FIRST 7 MONTHS

Vehicle sales up 8.3%

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AUTOMOTIVE sales continued to climb through the first seven months this year driven by attractive financing packages and perks offered by dealers and steady recovery of consumer confidence.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. reported that sales surged 8.3 percent to 46,135 units in the first half this year from 42,604 during the same period last year.

Sales of commercial vehicles, including Asian utility vehicles, sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks and vans, stepped up 13.1 percent to 33,343 units in the first seven months this year from 29,493 a year ago.

Passenger cars were a drag on the industry as sales tumbled 2.4 percent to 12,792 from January to July this year from 13,111 during the same period last year.

Assemblers said low interest and down payment plans and the improved market confidence continued to draw in new vehicle buyers especially for the latest Asian utility vehicles that have been gobbling up market share not only from commercial vehicles but also from passenger cars.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. spokesperson Ariel de Jesus said the company's July sales (2,224 units) were the firm's highest single month turnover over the last two years with its models topping the three main market segments—the Corolla Altis for compact sedans, Camry for mid-range sedans and Tamaraw Revo for AUVs.

De Jesus is projecting a 10-percent growth in sales this year to 22,000 units from 19,894 last year.

Toyota was No. 1 in the first seven months this year with a market share of 30 percent or 13,854 units. Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Corp. was second with 9,232 units sold or 20-percent market share.

Rounding up the top five were Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (14 percent or 6,434 units); Isuzu Philippines Corp. (13.2 percent or 6,127); and Nissan Motor group (8.8 percent or 4,071).

SUBIC-CLARK-TARLAC EXPRESSWAY
Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) president and CEO Rufo Colayco (seated, right) and Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez (seated, left) recently signed an agreement creating monitoring teams and setting up funds to ensure the protection of the environment in towns and cities where the approximately 100-kilometer toll road will pass. BCDA executive vice president Isaac Puno III (standing, right) and DENR regional and provincial officials witnessed the signing.

Gov't urged to expand tariff cut review

LABOR groups yesterday called on Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas to expand the government's review of the country's most favored nation (MFN) tariff reduction schedule effective Jan. 1, 2004 to also include its tariff cut commitments under the CEPT-Afta.

The last tranche of the CEPT-Afta tariff cuts will take effect on Jan. 1 next year.

"We are not alarmists, as Secretary Roxas branded us after our mass action last Monday. But we warn of a different kind of explosion this coming New Year if the government does not reconsider its commitments under the CEPT-Afta that are threatening many critical industries and would result in massive job losses," said lawyer Ernesto Arellano, secretary general of the National Confederation of Labor (NCL).

"Unlike other Asean countries that calibrated their tariff reductions by not only beginning at a higher rates for their products but also by reducing their tariffs gradually, the Philippines began with lower tariff rates and had even accelerated the slashing of its tariffs. This is why Philippine industries are at a severe disadvantage as compared with other Asean industries," said Arellano.

"There is still time for the government to rethink its commitments because Afta allows governments to delay or suspend tariff reductions especially if it will cause hardships to strategic industries. Malaysia did this for its car industry. There is no reason why the Philippines cannot do it. All it has to do is to repeal the EOs issued by former President Joseph Estrada implementing the (tariff) reductions," said Carlito Rallistan, president of the Alliance of Democratic Labor Organizations.

The petrochemical, plastics industries and automotive industries have earlier appealed to the DTI to invoke a protocol that allowed CEPT-Afta member countries to suspend tariff reductions or delist their products from the inclusion list for tariff reductions to 0 percent to 5 percent by January next year.

Pre-need firm increases trust fund contributions

PETPLANS Inc., one of the country's largest pre-need companies, has consistently increased its contributions to its trust funds to offset the effects of the country's poor investment climate and ensure payment of obligations to its policyholders.

Figures show that the company's contributions to its trust funds increased by 14 percent from 2000 to 2001. From P219.1 million in 2000, PETPlans contributed P249.7 million in 2001.

PETPlans president and CEO Adrian V. Ocampo said that the company contributed significantly higher to the trust fund to ensure that the fund was healthy and thus capable of meeting the demands of policyholders.

"We do not want to take chances with our policyholders' money, that is why we ensure that our contributions are significantly higher than what is required. We cannot afford to gamble on investments especially in this time of investment uncertainty," Ocampo adds.

As of end-June 2002, PETPlans has already contributed P175.7 million in its trust funds. This amount is roughly 70 percent of its total contributions last year.

Industry group bucks current version of proposed pre-need law

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies Inc. is opposing the current version of the proposed Pre-Need Code, saying it is "detailed and rigid."

In a position paper submitted to the House sub-committee on securities and capital markets, PFPPCI said the bill should be revised to empower the regulating agency that Congress would choose to draw up and enforce its own rules.

Federation president Juan Miguel Madrigal Vazquez said the proposed Pre-Need Code, in its current version, mirrored the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules, which made it "dangerous in times of pro-active change for only an act of Congress can amend under a tedious and rigorous process."

The Insurance Code suffers from this flaw, and the Insurance Commission's efforts to get Congress to amend has failed in the past 12 years, Vazquez said.

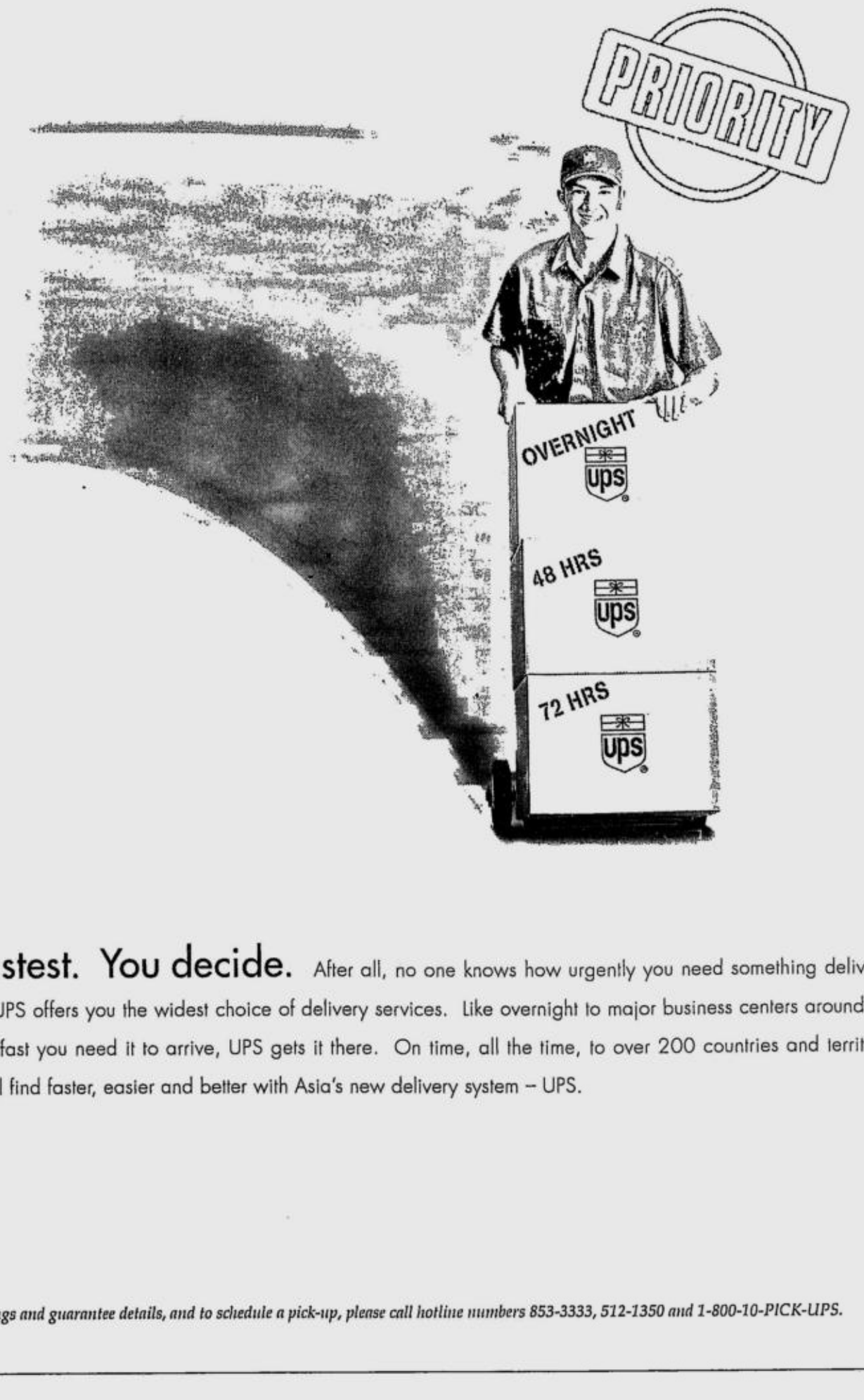
PFPPCI also said that should Congress choose the Insurance Commission as the pre-need industry's regulator, the agency should be renamed as the "Insurance and Pre-need Commission."

Vazquez said the federation also supported the recommendations of the Insurance Commission on how the pending Pre-need Code should be revised.

The Insurance Commission has urged lawmakers to revise the proposed Pre-Need Code to allow the automatic renewal of a pre-need company's license.

The commission also underscored the need for an actuary and an easing of licensing examination requirements.

The Insurance Commission also said detailed provisions relating to specific amounts of termination values and deposits in trust funds, types of investments of trust funds, total fees and charges, assets, solvency margin requirement, and fines should instead be detailed in the law's implementing rules and regulations.



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IMF clears $30-B Brazil bailout, largest ever

WASHINGTON/BRASILIA—The International Monetary Fund threw a $30-billion cash lifeline to Brazil on Wednesday, the fund's biggest bailout ever, seeking to shore up an economy that has been pummeled by investor angst ahead of presidential elections.

The package, which by far surpassed analysts' expectations, also allows Brazil to spend an additional $10 billion of its net foreign currency reserves to protect the local currency from a crisis of investor confidence over the October vote.

The 15-month deal effectively gives Brazil $40 billion of extra cash to help avert a financial meltdown, sparked by worries that the next administration will shatter macroeconomic stability and default on a $250-billion net public debt load.

The size of the deal was a sign that the United States, the IMF's largest shareholder, would avert at all costs a meltdown of Latin America's biggest economy, which would send shock waves across the hemisphere, to Europe and beyond, economists said.

Analysts also welcomed the drastic reduction in Brazil's net foreign currency reserves floor to $5 billion from $15 billion, vastly increasing the Central Bank's firepower to protect the beleaguered real currency.

"By reducing vulnerabilities and uncertainties, a new IMF-supported program provides a bridge to the new administration starting in 2003," IMF managing director Horst Koehler said in a statement.

In return for the cash, the IMF requires Brazil to post a primary surplus target of at least 3.75 percent of economic output in 2003—a target to be revisited quarterly. The deal also demands that same level of primary budget surplus to be targeted in Brazil's budget guidelines law for 2004 and 2005.

The bulk of the loan—80 percent or $24 billion—will be released in 2003, meaning their disposal will depend on the new president's commitment to the surplus target.

Koehler said the funds would underpin the economy, boost Brazil's growth potential, preserve low inflation and debt sustainability and improve employment and social conditions. The deal extends a $15-billion loan from the Washington-based lender signed last September. That accord expires in December.

President Fernando Henrique Cardoso defended the benefits of the loan, saying it gave Brazil ample breathing room. IMF critics say fiscal restraint policies can curb growth.

"Do not think that we will be strangled. We have oxygen," Cardoso said in a speech at his presidential palace. "The function of the IMF is positive and should be amplified."

Finance Minister Pedro Malan said the aid was "excellent for the country."

Economists said the large figure should impress expectant financial markets, although they cautioned that the positive reaction could be short-lived. Many foreign investors are still squinting for signs that Jose Serra, the candidate of Cardoso and his administration, can gain in opinion polls. ***Reuters***

Australian group wins 25-year gas contract in China

CANBERRA, Australia—The Chinese government has awarded an Australian consortium a 25-year, multibillion-dollar natural gas supply contract, Prime Minister John Howard announced Thursday.

Howard said in a statement that Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji told him that the Northwest Shelf Venture consortium had been chosen as the sole supplier for the contract, which was worth up to A$25 billion (US$13.25 billion) in export income.

The contract is Australia's biggest ever trade deal, the government said.

Starting from 2005, the group is to provide 3 million metric tons a year of liquefied natural gas to an import terminal in the Guangdong province of southern China.

The gas will come from the rich Northwest Shelf fields off the coast of Western Australia state.

Howard said the deal represented a "new energy partnership" between the two countries.

"It is a major and exciting development in the growing trade and economic relationship shared by Australia and China," he said. ***AP***

A BEGGAR waits on the street in Buenos Aires next to a poster that questions US Secretary of Treasury Paul O'Neill on US economic problems. The poster reads: "Mr. O'Neill, does the US have economic problems, too? Sorry, but at the moment we can't help you. We collaborated already." O'Neill concluded his tour of Latin America in Argentina. AFP

Swire interim profits rise, led by Cathay

HONG KONG—Conglomerate Swire Pacific Ltd. said Thursday that its profit rose 13.5 percent in the first half, led by higher contributions from affiliate Cathay Pacific Airways.

Swire said net profit in the six months to June rose to HK$2.73 billion (US$350 million) compared with HK$2.41 billion a year earlier.

The results were above the forecasts of analysts polled by AFX-Asia, an AFP-owned financial news service, who had predicted the firm would report a profit of HK$2.3 billion to HK$2.5 billion.

Sales in Swire's core businesses ranging from property and shipping to aviation rose 7 percent to HK$7.41 billion.

Swire chair James Hughes-Hallet said in a statement that the group's businesses had performed well.

"In particular, the aviation division has achieved a marked turnaround after the severe slump in worldwide demand for travel and tourism suffered in the fourth quarter of 2001," he said. ***AFP***

Disney confident of finances, theme parks, says CFO

LOS ANGELES—Walt Disney Co., whose stock is at an eight-year low on concerns over its theme parks and ABC television units, is confident of its resort operations and overall finances and sees signs of improvement at ABC this fall, chief financial officer Tom Staggs told Reuters on Wednesday.

Staggs made his assessment less than a week after Disney warned of weakness at its important theme parks division in the current quarter, prompting credit rating agencies Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service to warn they might downgrade Disney's debt.

In making their warnings, both agencies also cited weak performance at ABC, which finished third among the top three networks last season amid a dearth of new hits.

The bleak results were a major factor behind a sharp decline in Disney's fiscal third-quarter earnings, which were down 31 percent when the company reported last Thursday.

Despite the drop, Staggs said the company's finances remained sound.

"We've got great liquidity," Staggs told Reuters in a phone interview. He added that since Dec. 31, Disney had paid down $1.8 billion in debt, bringing its current indebtedness to $13.1 billion. ***Reuters***

Fed may concede risks to US economy but hold rates

NEW YORK—The US economic recovery has stumbled, but it is not yet time for the Federal Reserve to administer smelling salts, economists say.

Although calls on Wall Street for another interest rate cut have grown louder in the past week after a run of soft data, most primary dealers who trade directly with the Fed do not believe there is enough evidence yet for a cut, a Reuters poll found on Wednesday.

But the central bank could say that the economic risks are tilted more toward weakness than inflation at its policy meeting next Tuesday, which would be the first hint that it may consider lowering interest rates in coming months.

The Reuters survey found 17 of 21 dealers say the Federal Reserve will hold rates at a low 1.75 percent through the end of this year and well into next year, a big change from just a few weeks ago. Then, nine predicted the central bank would raise rates by the end of the year.

Four houses now expect lower interest rates by the end of the year, up from two in a similar survey taken last Friday.

"The key difference now is you're starting to see some damage show up in the real side of the economy" from the stock market slide, said Lehman Brothers senior economist Joseph Abate. He cited weaker durable goods orders, payrolls and manufacturing.

"The other factor too is that the credit markets are freezing up. There's a growing sense of anxiety about the credit-worthiness of borrowers," and that can take its toll on economic activity, Abate added. Lehman this week made an aggressive forecast of three rate cuts by year's end, to 1.0 percent.

The federal funds rate stands at a four-decade low of 1.75 percent after a series of 11 rate cuts last year.

Consumer spending has moderated, but Americans are still taking advantage of low interest rates to snap up new cars and houses. The worries are that the persistent stock market declines will wear out consumers and force businesses to postpone investment that is key to reviving the economy. ***Reuters***

Aon quarterly report reveals SEC inquiry

WASHINGTON—The US Securities and Exchange Commission has been looking into accounting practices at US insurance giant Aon, the world's second largest insurance broker, the company revealed Wednesday in its second quarterly statement.

These included $1.3 billion in assets and $1.3 billion in liabilities that were not recorded in its financial statements. The extra assets and liabilities were contained in "special purpose entities," the company said in its report.

The company said the SEC requested that it expand its disclosure on these special purpose entities and explain the basis for not consolidating each entity in its financial statements.

However, Aon said it had been communicating with the SEC regarding these accounting questions and stressed that its filings with the commission had been in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Among other things, the SEC also requested additional disclosure regarding several other items contained in Aon's 2001 and first quarter 2002 financial statements, including contingencies, World Trade Center losses, investments, and revenue recognition of brokerage commission and fees, life insurance commissions and amounts received directly from carriers. ***AFP***

Investors sniff at Indonesia but still not ready to bite

JAKARTA—A slew of positive news from Indonesia in recent days will likely whet the appetite of foreign investors sitting on the periphery of the giant Asian nation and wondering whether to come back.

But will it be enough to seriously kick-start badly needed direct investment? Most analysts and economists say no.

"All these items are positive, but it is a long road back before widespread confidence among the foreign investment community is re-established," said John Arnold, chair of the British Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia.

"But improvements at the macro level may excite some interest among portfolio investors in the capital market," he added.

Last week, Indonesia said annual inflation for July fell to 10 percent to put the state budget target of 9 percent for the year well within reach, President Megawati Sukarnoputri endorsed International Monetary Fund-led reforms considered critical by many investors, and the IMF itself said it was "happy" with the macroeconomy.

On the same day, London-based Fitch rating agency upgraded Indonesia's long-term foreign currency rating as well as its long-term local currency rating to B from B-minus.

Indonesia's financial markets took heart from slow but steady economic reforms and the political stability that came with Megawati when she replaced Abdurrahman Wahid a year ago after he was ousted for incompetence.

The rupiah has appreciated by around 14 percent this year and is the region's top currency. The stock market has also been one of Asia's star performers and is up around 16 percent.

"Those who know about Indonesia and who've been switched on about what's going on there have been positive and have been buying but then there's the vast majority for whom no amount of good news will bring them back in," said Geoffrey Barker, head of economic research at HSBC in Hong Kong. ***Reuters***

Breast pumps, fat-busting massagers: China's beauty trade on show

BEIJING—From a "breast pump," which purportedly expands the bust to an electric massager that salesmen swear transfers fat to preferred parts of the body, the full range of tricks available to credulous Chinese beauty-seekers is on show in Beijing this week.

The vast annual beauty and health products exhibition emphasizes how far Chinese women—and men—will now go for the perfect look.

However, they also illustrate China's at times minimal levels of consumer protection, with staff at stall after stall making sky-high claims for the sometimes bizarre-seeming products they peddle.

"What's being sought? Big breasts, a slim waist, tight thighs, firm buttocks just to name a few. There's no part of the body that's being left out. Even the feet, people want smooth skin there," said Hu Binbin, selling the fat-moving massager.

The contraption, which has a handheld vibrating device, will soften and loosen fat, either making it come out in sweat or move it to another part of the body, for example from the thighs to the breasts, Hu promised.

Gone will be chubby cheeks, double chins and sagging calves. It even works on removing wrinkles, she said.

Sounds incredible?

Never mind, beauty salons and individual consumers are snapping it up, along with the 6,000-yuan ($722) breast pumps, 1,800 yuan at-home saunas, the water-massage tubs and miracle tablets that aim to help post-childbearing women jazz up their sex life.

The eighth annual show, which opened on Wednesday, is the largest ever held in the city and has become so popular it has had to move to Beijing's cavernous International Exhibition Center from a smaller venue in the city's northeast.

Inside, beauticians painted permanently defined eyebrows that don't come off for five years onto models.

The man who invented the "breast beautifier," meanwhile, swore the contraption—a pair of large transparent cups attached by hoses to electric pumps—will enlarge any woman's bust from adolescents to women in their 70s.

"Breasts are just like other muscles—exercise (using the pumps) makes them bigger," said CT Huang.

"Without your love and care, the breasts will be getting older and older," the inventors' sales literature warns ominously, also showing a slightly alarming picture of Huang, naked from the waist up, modeling the cups. ***AFP***

A DOCTOR performs liposuction on a client at a cost of 7,000 yuan ($850) at a hospital in Shanghai. Plastic surgery may be a new procedure in China, but an increasing number of people are opting for its promise of a quick fix to their physical disaffection, as more Chinese women and men want to have beautiful faces and bodies despite expensive operation fees and possible health risks. AFP

Drugmakers face higher quality and cost bar

NEW YORK—Making medicine used to be the easy part, but not anymore.

A string of problems with substandard plants and too few factories capable of churning out complex biotech drugs only serve to highlight how—even after discovering and developing a successful new product—firms often stumble when it comes to making the goods.

Eli Lilly & Co., Schering-Plough Corp. and Wyeth, are among the companies that have come under fire from US regulators for so-called poor manufacturing practices ranging from lapses in record keeping to quality control slip-ups such as failing to fill asthma-relief canisters.

Drawing the censure of US regulators can come at a hefty price. Schering-Plough agreed to pay a record settlement of $500 million and had to hold off the launch of its new allergy drug, Clarinex, for more than a year, as it tried to resolve manufacturing issues cited by the US Food and Drug Administration.

"Manufacturing is a variable that hasn't been controlled by management of these companies because they have taken their eye off the ball," said Ira Loss, an analyst for independent research group Washington Analysis.

"It's a widespread issue. Since squeaky wheels get the grease, there will be a lot of attention paid to this going forward by corporate executives in the pharmaceutical industry. Those who do not will not be around for very long," said Loss.

As plant woes continue to stifle earnings growth and stock prices for some big drugmakers, the bar for manufacturing standards is only going to get higher, industry watchers say.

At the same time, the FDA is casting a more critical eye on how drugs are made, the industry faces more fundamental problems as it turns increasingly to biologics and protein-based drugs that are much more complex—and expensive—to produce than conventional "small molecule" medicines.

"It's a whole new paradigm for biologics drugs relative to chemical compounds like (allergy drug) Claritin and (antidepressant) Prozac, which have been the standby for big drugmakers for years," said Greg Aurand, a portfolio manager at Orbitex Management Inc. who manages $250 million in two healthcare funds.

"And, with increased scrutiny from the FDA, I think we will see a lot more spending by drugmakers on manufacturing," Aurand said.

Though spending is sure to increase, it remains a dilemma for drugmakers to know when is the right time to open the wallets to boost manufacturing capabilities.

Switzerland's Roche Holding AG warned last week of a likely shortage of its revolutionary T-20 AIDS drugs, because of capacity constraints. Making T-20 requires 106 steps of chemical synthesis.

Roche and its US partner, Trimeris Inc., will only be able to supply some 3,000 patients at the time of T-20's launch next March, although they plan to ramp up production so that 25,000 people can get the injectable drug by the end of 2003.

But getting a new drug approved is never a sure thing. Drugmakers and industry watchers need look no further than ImClone Systems Inc. and its experimental cancer drug, Erbitux. The highly touted drug was shot down by regulators late in the development process last year, costing its makers and investors millions of dollars.

"It is hard for a public company to make a dollar commitment to manufacturing when there are so many variables," said David Saks, chief investment officer of the Saks MedScience Fund at Ladenburg Thalmann.

"In retrospect, it's easy to see Viagra leaping off the shelves and Erbitux being held up and say where the dollars for capacity, distribution and quality control should have gone.

"But the requirements of making a drug, even after getting approval, are getting so rigid that it's nearly impossible for a company these days" to put a lot of money into manufacturing ahead of a drug approval, Saks said.

Other biotech drugs, including monoclonal antibodies, are produced biologically inside live, genetically modified microbial or mammal cells. But here, too, there are problems.

Immunex Corp., now part of Amgen Inc., for example, can't seem to make enough of its arthritis drug, Enbrel. ***Reuters***

Passion

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Why use 'tawas' when you can use a better deo?

EVERYDAY we wake up, tale a shower and perform all sorts of morning rituals such as checking if it's time to shave or wax. Then we come to what is believed to be one of today's necessities in life—the deodorant.

If it's affordability you're after, the Internet offers some "useful" tips. One advice posted on the worldwide web suggested using alcohol-soaked cotton pads. The idea was to keep a handy supply in a small jar so that whenever the need arises, one can just take a pad and swipe it across the underarm area for that instant feeling of freshness. This method might work to subdue malodor for a few minutes, but it doesn't really solve the problem of sweating.

Another traditional odor-buster is ginger extract. According to a certain web advice columnist, all you need to do is take a hefty chunk of ginger, use a pestle to pound it, and squeeze it until its juices come out. You're to apply the extract under the arms after showering and malodor will supposedly disappear in approximately two weeks. This is guaranteed because instead of offensive body odor, you'll be smelling like ginger. Hmmm... but then again, smelling like spices isn't a very appealing thought either.

If you don't want to smell like food, there is always the age-old option that has been passed down from generation to generation of Filipinos: *tawas*. Older people have sworn by *tawas'* efficacy in preventing body odor and whitening the underarms, so there's really no contesting that. But again, like using alcohol pads, *tawas* doesn't prevent perspiration. Besides, it's not very flattering when people see you rubbing what looks like a rock under your arms. The powdered version of *tawas*, on the other hand, is a nuisance to apply because it's messy. Its grainy texture is not very comfortable, sometimes even irritating.

Of course there is also the option to use the more commercialized forms of deodorants which are either roll-ons or sticks. There is only one difference between the two and that is their formulation (one is applied wet while the other goes on dry). So if you absolutely can't live without a deo, then you might as well use one that's effective both as a deodorant and antiperspirant.

Take the new Rexona Mini-Stick, the world's first mini-stick, for example. This lightweight (it's only 5 grams), handy version of the Rexona stick deodorants does the job of keeping the user dry with just a few swipes. This is because it also contains *deosteral max*, the active ingredient that provides round-the-clock protection against body odor and sweat. Mini-sticks come in two classic Rexona variants – Confidence and Sport – and are available in major supermarkets nationwide.

Now, do you really want to lug around a jar of soaked cotton or smell like ginger? With Rexona Mini-sticks, why even think of using *tawas*?

NURSING SCHOLARS' COURTESY CALL

The fourth batch of Pampers-MCNAP Aral Alaga Nursing scholars who graduated this year paid a courtesy call on Procter & Gamble Philippines president and general manager Johnip G. Cua (seated, center). They are (standing from left) Karen Gale Pachao of Benguet State University (ranked 16th in the recent Nursing Licensure Examination), Rose Bernadine Nieves of UST, Karen Aissah Ong of Bicol University, Margareth Rhea Arenas of UERMMMC, Iris Jehm Hernandez of Manila Central University, Myra Pineda of Arellano University (ranked 14th in the board exam), Venus Servito of Arellano University and Ma. Ivy Bonafe of Bicol University. The scholars were accompanied by (seated, from left) P&G senior manager for external affairs Chit Itchon, MCNAP president Erlinda Ahorro, first vice president Col. (Ret.) Estelita Galutira and Ace Saatchi & Saatchi PR account supervisor Milette Villanueva. Every year since 1996, Pampers and the Mother and Child Nurses Association of the Philippines (MCNAP) select through a rigid battery of tests 10 exceptional but financially incapable second-year nursing students who are interested to become maternal or pediatric nurses, and awards them with free tuition and book and laboratory allowance for six semesters until they graduate.

BRATPACK OPENS NEWEST STORE IN SM DAVAO

Bratpack, the store that specializes in a wide array of bags and accessories for the young and active set, recently opened its newest store at the ground level of SM City Davao. A mini fashion show was held featuring local models garbed in the latest collections from JanSport, Kickers, LA Gear, Hedgren and Cartoon Studio. The opening was attended by (from left) Primer Group of Companies director Jerry Sy, Davao vice mayor Luis Bonguyan, Audrey Lim, Josie San Pedro of Mindanao Times, Donna Meltran and Bratpack marketing and sales director Marisol Marcelo.

Red Horse Muziklaban 2002 calls new bands

THE HOTTEST and most awaited band competition in the country is back. Red Horse Beer invites all aspiring young amateur bands to be part of the biggest and most exciting Muziklaban ever. If you think you've got what it takes to make it big in the local rock scene, rush to the nearest San Miguel sales office, Dickies outlet, DWTM Magic 89.9, Killer Bee or NU 107 radio station and get an application form with your demo tape to any San Miguel sales office or to any DWTM or NU 107 radio station together with Red Horse Beer crowns (3 crowns for each member of your band) and other requirements.

Demo tapes, which should each contain one cover song, one Red Horse Beer original song with the theme "*tunay na lakas*', and one original song, will be screened by a distinguished panel of judges. Qualifying bands will be announced over DWTM Magic 89.9, Killer Bee and NU 107 stations nationwide.

At stake are over P100,000 in prizes and a chance to cut album with Alpha Records, one of the country's leading labels. This may be the break you've been waiting for *kaya ilabas mo na ang iyong tunay na lakas sa tugtugan sa Red Horse Muziklaban 2002*.

For more information, call Wishcraft Events Team at (02) 635-6026, 0916-5391613 or visit www.magic899.fm.

INDEPENDENCE FROM TERMITES

Bayer Philippines Inc. recently sponsored the Independence Day Walkathon/Bikathon contest within Ayala Alabang Village June 12. Bayer, the manufacturer of the breakthrough termiticide Premice SC with its partner Accredited Premise Applicator, Apollo Pest Control trooped to the streets with over a hundred Ayala Alabang village homeowners in celebration of Philippine independence and independence from harmful termite colonies. Premise SC is tested effective worldwide against termites and assures homeowners of 'Maximum Protection, Minimum Concern' as it suppresses termite colonies without harm-causing airborne residues, allowing homeowners to stay inside the house during treatment. Shown above are (from left) Jay Tolentino, technical coordinator for Bayer Environmental Science, Arturo Gorrez, Ayala Alabang Village manager and lawyer Tony Santos, general manager of Apollo Pest Control.

TRAINING PROGRAM AT WG&A

Gian Carlo Galvez of WG&A's PR department (right), together with hosts Lulu Rivera and Jennifer Bautista (second and third from left) of DZMM's 'Sikap Pinoy', show off forked 'embutido' during a special training program held onboard the SuperFerry 14 vessel, docked at Pier 14, North Harbor, Manila. A livelihood program on the air, 'Sikap Pinoy' taught WG&A porters, security personnel and ground crew how to prepare homemade pork favorites such as 'embutido', 'tocino' and skinless 'longganisa'. Sponsored by WG&A, the training program also featured emergency preparedness skills and tactics. The training program is part of WG&A's aim to empower and transform its ground support team to become able workers who will better serve its numerous passengers daily.

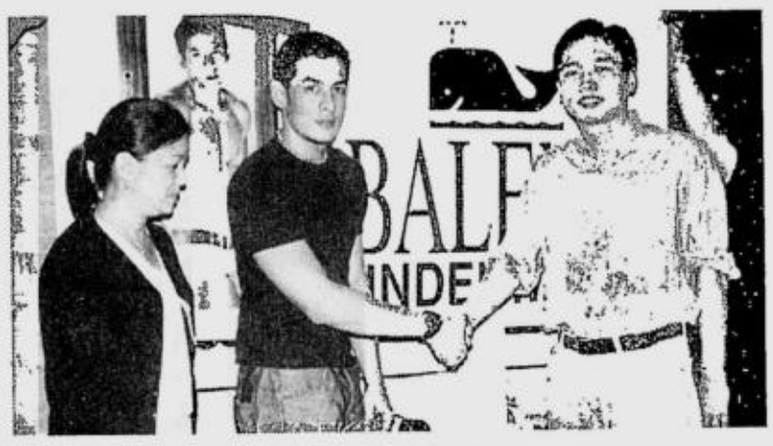
BITS Clips

Silliman alumni celebrate 101 years

THE METRO MANILA Chapter of Silliman Alumni Association, through president Noel Royandoyan, announces the activities in celebration of the 101st year of Silliman University. On Aug. 9, a dinner-talk sponsored by Silliman Business Club with Commissioner Jess Martinez of the Securities and Exchange Commission will be held at 7 p.m. at The Manila Elks Club, 7th floor Corinthian Plaza, Paseo de Roxas corner Legaspi Street, Makati City. On Aug. 16, "An Adventure at the Fort" will be held at Caramba, Fort Bonifacio Global City, at 7 p.m. to celebrate the annual alumni homecoming. The activities will culminate in a Silliman Sunday Service Aug. 18, 9 a.m. at the Cosmopolitan Church, Taft Avenue, Manila. Leonor Briones, former National Treasurer and current chair of the board of trustees of Silliman University, will be the speaker.

Math quiz for the math whiz

MSA Academic Advancement Institute, the Philippines' pioneer and leader in the tutorial and review industry, together with Sharp Calculator, launches "Math Quiz for the Math Whiz" on Aug. 17 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The project aims to promote mental mathematics intelligence through a higher level of competition among 500 high school and 200 college students. The top 27 students for high school and college categories will advance to the quarterfinals on Sep. 9 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The semifinal and final rounds shall be held at the Glorietta Activity Center. The math whiz of the year shall receive P50,000 worth of premium packages from sponsors The school of the winning math whiz receives a Kodak digital camera. Call Projectionals for details at 660-2780 or 660-7531 and look for Jorj or Annette.



SEALED WITH A HANDSHAKE

Baleno Private Wear (underwear), the latest name in men's underwear, had its contract signing with its talent Christian Vasquez. The choice of Christian Vazquez embodies perfectly the image Baleno Private Wear projects to its clients. Shown is the big man of Baleno Private Wear Jeffrey See as Genie Tan, co-owner of Baleno, looks on. The event was held at Cork Liquor Restaurant at ABS-CBN compound. Baleno Private Wear for men is available at SM Department Stores nationwide.

HOUSE AND LOT WINNER

The Robinsons Malls, together with the Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supermarket and Big R Supercenter, recently awarded a brand new house and lot to Gina D. Corpuz (sixth from left), the second grand prize winner of the recently concluded 'Hanep Buhay' promo. Corpuz of Marikina City who is a frequent shopper of Big R Supercenter, Robinsons Metro East branch, recently visited her new house at Robinsons Homes' South Square Village located at General Trias, Cavite. Witnessing the turnover were (from left) Cecilia Evangelista, Robinsons Land Corp's corporate PR assistant, the winner's family composed of Archie Corpuz, Liza Corpuz, Caridad Corpuz and Arquimedes Corpuz, winner Corpuz, Jasmine Basa, RLC senior ad and promo officer, Lito Nebre, Robinsons Homes Inc. sales operations manager, Third Salanguit, Big R senior marketing coordinator. 'Hanep Buhay' was made possible by Robinsons Malls, Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supermarket and Big R Supercenter in cooperation with Coca-Cola and Colgate Palmolive Phils.

Plai's Gats forum at National Library

THE PHILIPPINE Librarian Association (Plai) invites the public to a forum on Friday, Aug. 16, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Epifanio de los Santos Hall at the National Library, TM Kalaw, Ermita, Manila. The topic is "General Services on Trade in Services (Gats), Implications for Librarians and other Information Professionals." For details call Ma. Fe Abeleda Robles at 931-5966, Elnora Conti at 526-8952, fax 525-0432, and Shirley Nava at 524-9740.

ProductFILES

Super-powerful, super-expandable Pocket PC 2002

TODAY the business front lines require both speed and efficiency. And that means a mobile device that offers an office-like environment as well as seamless access to servers. Casio Computer Co. Ltd. is proud to announce the launch of Cassiopeia E-200—the pocket PC with all the functions of a mobile PC plus powerful wireless capabilities and versatile expandability.

Cassiopeia E-200, which operates using Microsoft's Pocket PC 2002 software, allows users to connect to a variety of wireless network products and accessories to create a complete mobile office solution. It supports a number of expansion cards, including PC, CF and SD cards allowing users to store more information while on the move.

The Cassiopeia E-200 is exclusively distributed by Business Plus Marketing and is available at all Globatronics and Western Marketing outlets, as well as in all major computer shops. For product inquiries, call 637-6422 local 501 to 503, or e-mail casioedu@mozcom.com.

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Q.C. Br. 426-2278 426-4084

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Cars/Vans Cheap 8203894

CHEAP VAN 8254058 8261045

FCU CAR RENTAL
U DRIVE OR W/DRIVER
HONDA REVO TOYOTA
Tel 722-8434 / 722-8438

HI ACE VANS •825-2988•

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

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MB100 643-7397; 0917-9623141

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

STAREX L300 CARS 726-8388

Toyco Self Drive Carvan Coaster Rental •800-6595•

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

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1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

FURNITURE

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New Models 7213124

PETS

Dalm Pups F 0917-8965664

DOG TRAINER 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

Golden Ret Pups 09185221929

Lab Pups 7T Choco Stud 2T 533-1862 • 0917-8172860

SPORTING GOODS

22T Pool Sr New Comph 7767507

BILLIARDS P30/33/36/38T A1 Qlty B.New 8014494/8020566

WANTED TO BUY

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Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
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B/SELL EDUC'L 8061574

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Photo Dev. Mach. 7111650

Souvenirs -Ria 7430082

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

20 SALESLADIES
For department store with 1 year exp. single 5'2lbt 20-24yrs old College level Pls call Cory: T7321954 /7321942 9AM-6PM

•MARKETING ASST•
F, SINGLE, COLL. GRAD. COMP. PROFICIENT FLUENT IN ENG. ALABANG AREA 8501599 LOOK MS. GINA

NURSE Midwife Reg/Non Reg Pref Cainta Resident 6822941

Promo Girl / Sales Lady single 20-24y/o 5'2 coll level office clerk not over 30y/o college grad w/ exp willing to undergo training 732.1942 / 732.1954

WANTED
TELEMARKETING
with experience.
FREE food & Housing & Salary, email biodata antileathers@yahoo.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

OFC STAFF 18-45 w/ w/o exp Start ASAP 641-6967Annie

★OFFICE STAFF★
18-45,w/ w/o exp START ASAP 734-2467 Look for ARLENE

COLLECTION STAFF
Experienced, College Grad., 25 to 35 yrs old. Send resume to Fax# 910-0833 c/o Art Garcia
NIPPON CREDIT CO., INC.

Dir. Hiring Office Staff 18-45yo 9134470 Mr. Galvez

Direct Hire Office Adm Staff 9134470 Start ASAP Ms. Fe

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

★OFC STAFF 18-40yo w/w/o exp 9134470 Ms. Ang Urgent★

HRD STF 0919-4639391 LYKA

Marketing Mgr Printing Co. Pagemaker/Correll Typesetter Aurellia Operator 0920-2 8 7 8 6 9 1

OFC STFI LK4 JENG 7492993

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALVARO J. BULACTIAL, SR. was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc No. 445 Page No. 91 Book No. XXII Series of 2002 of notary public Gaudencio S. Mercado of Quezon City
(PDI-Aug. 9, 16 &23, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that JOSE E.A. CAMPA—ANO executed an Extrajudicial Settlement and Partition with Waiver for TCT 1878, Cagayan Province, on July 18, 2002 as per Doc. No. 109, Page No. 75, Book No. 14, Series of 2002 of the Notary Public Celso Aningat of Quezon City
(PDI-Aug. 2, 9 & 16, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estates of the late BEATRIZ SIPIN and CRISPULO C. SIPIN, SR. which consist of two (2) lots situated in Mangatarem, Pangasinan (covered by TD Nos. 168 and 167) have been the subject of extrajudicial settlement on August 01, 2002 by and among their children and compulsory heirs CRISPULO SIPIN, JR., TERESITA S. CAGAMPAN, ELEANOR S. ANGELES and SONIA S. SCANLAN as evidenced by that document executed and acknowledged before Notary Public, Atty. Mario Eugenio V. Lim and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc No. 14, Page No 4, Book No. 1, Series of 2002
PDI-Aug. 2, 9 & 16, 2002

NOTICE OF LOSS

LOST BROWN NATIVE DOG male big built with blue collar Last seen Aug.4 near Luz Facial Visayas Ave. Vasra Village, Q.C. Call 4536765 or (0917)9638392 or (0917)4112934 BIG REWARD NO QUESTIONS ASKED

BAPP'S INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER INC.
POEA LICENSE NO POEA-305-LB-090601-R
URGENTLY NEEDS
DOMESTIC HELPERS & CARETAKER
Qualifications:
Female, 24 to 35 years old; at least 5'1" in height; with or without experience.
Interview on: August 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 14
Bring 2x2 picture, passport and NBI at #1322 Paz Street, Paco, Manila
5637147; 5612179
MAG-INGAT SA MGA ILLEGAL RECRUITER.

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY
GENERAL ACCOUNTING STAFF
Male/ Female, not more than 28 years old; Accounting major graduate; with at least 2 years work experience. Apply personally (with complete credentials).
Personnel Department
Abiva Building
851 G. Araneta Avenue
1113 Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT NO. IV
DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Tala, Caloocan City
August 5, 2002

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital invites responsible and duly accredited suppliers from DOH/RHO 4 to pre-qualify and bid for the supply of the following items:

A. GROCERY PRODUCTS
B. POULTRY AND EGGS
C. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
D. FISH AND OTHER SEA FOODS
E. BAKERY PRODUCTS

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Issuance of Bid Documents	August 20 to 27, 2002 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	August 20, 2002 9:00 AM
Submission and Opening of Bids	August 27, 2002 9:00 AM

Prospective bidders may secure bid proposal forms from the PBAC Secretary, Property and Supply Section, Dr. Jose N Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, after payment of a non-refundable fee of P300.00

All activities shall be held at the Training Room, Dr. JNRMH, Tala, Caloocan City unless announced otherwise.

Bidders who failed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on August 20, 2002 are not allowed to join the Bidding on August 27, 2002

Each bid must be accompanied by a bidder's bond in the form of certified check, manager's check, or GSIS Bond in the sum of 2.5% of the total bid

For inquiries, please contact the PBAC Secretary or call tel. no. 962-9884.

The Dr. JNRMH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to notice of award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidders of the grounds for the hospital's action.

(Sgd.) CECILIA A. GARGUENA, M.D.
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -- Aug. 9 & 16, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS) invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF:
- 250 UNITS PERSONAL COMPUTER
- 300 UNITS PRINTER
- 25 UNITS NOTEBOOK COMPUTER

The approved budget for this contract is P 21, 269,230.77.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference that will be held on August 19, 2002, 9:30 A.M. at the PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.

The bid documents shall be available at the PS-PURCHASING DIVISION starting August 9, 2002 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00).

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of proposals shall be on September 3, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, please call the PS-Purchasing Division at telephone nos. 561-60-98 or 563-94-02.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI--Aug. 9 & 16, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Equitable Bank Stock Cert #59487 in the name of ENRIQUE JUAN / ROSARIO MEI MEI JUAN has been lost
(PDI-Aug. 9,16 & 23, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Stock Cert. No. 563611 -121 shares for MERALCO A shares under the name of Myrna G. Jardinero were lost. If found please call 7150165 loc. 151
(PDI-Aug. 9, 16 & 23, 2002)

National Power Corporation
G E N C O 2

INVITATION TO BID

For the Sale of Residual Fuel / Sludge Oils
Located at NPC-BFORF Compound, inside the
CALTEX Refinery Complex
Municipality of SAN PASCUAL, Province of BATANGAS

"CASH, AS IS - WHERE IS, TAKE ALL and CLEAN-UP"

Date of Bidding : **August 20, 2002**
Time : **10:00 AM**
Place of Bidding : **Conference Room, NPC-GENCO II, Plaza Natalia Building, Nagulilan Road, Bagulo City**

Item/Description	Minimum Bid Price
Residual Fuel, one (1) lot, Bunker Fuel Oil, contained inside the BFORF's three (3) fuel oil tanks. Approximately 3,627,856 liters, more or less and **Sludge / Waste Oils**, one (1) lot, inside 76 drums and including all sludge oils contents and waste oils accumulated inside the Oil-Water Separators, Oil-Recovery Tanks, Booster Pumps / Motor areas. And all other waste oils to be taken in the required clean up. Approximately 360,990 liters, more or less. Price included above.	**PhP 16,800,000.00**

Issuance of Bid Forms including Bid Terms and Conditions at PhP200.00 per set will be on August 9, 2002 at NPC-GENCO II, c/o Mr. O.C. VERANO with Telephone Nos.: 445-4541 to 44 local 217 / 239. Deadline for the issuance of Bid Forms is 4:30 PM on **August 19, 2002.**

Interested parties are requested to attend the pre-bid conference on **August 19, 2002** at 3:00 PM at Conference Room, NPC-GENCO II, Plaza Natalia Building, Baguio City. All inquiries regarding the above should be coursed in writing to Mr. O.C. VERANO with office address at NPC-GENCO II, WTTDC, Plaza Natalia Building, #51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City.

Sealed Bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 10:00 AM on **August 20, 2002** at the Conference Room, NPC-GENCO II, Plaza Natalia Building, Naguilian Road, Baguio City and shall then and there be opened for the sale of the items bidden.

If, for whatsoever reason/s, the public bidding is declared a failed bidding the re-bidding will be automatically scheduled on **August 27, 2002** the same time and venue.

Please note that the GENCO II / National Power Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality found therein and to accept or reject such bids as may be advantageous to the interests of the Corporation.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. A.A. PADAEN**
Manager, HR & Administration Services Division
and Chairman, RAMSUC

(PDI – Aug. 8 & 9, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The National Food Authority (NFA) is inviting all palay Farmers' Organizations (FOs), Farmers' Cooperatives (FCs), Farmers' Associations (FAs) and Federation of Palay Farmers' Group (FPFGs) to participate in the distribution of imported rice under the **"FARMERS as DISTRIBUTORS"** (FAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture -- National Food Authority/Philippine International Trading Corporation.

All interested parties are advised to accomplish and submit a Letter of Intent (LOI), sample of which is shown as Exhibit 1, within five (5) days after the last day of publication, to the NFA Provincial Offices in their respective areas.

For details, they may coordinate with the nearest NFA Office in their respective areas. For Metro Manila, they may directly visit or call our NCR Office located at United Nations Avenue, Paco, Manila, with telephone nos. 563-9451, 563-8717 and 563-9454.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R.A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI - August 7, 9 & 11, 2002)

Exhibit 1

LETTER OF INTENT

LOI# _____

I/We _____, with business address
(name of cooperative)
at _____ would like to participate in the Farmers As Distributor (FAD), Program of the Department of Agriculture -- National Food Authority (NFA) / Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC). Specifically, we would like to avail of _____ bags of rice to be withdrawn in
(quality)
_____ from _____ to _____, 2002
(withdrawal point) *(withdrawal period)*

The NFA however, reserves the right to adjust the volume to be allocated to the farmers' group and likewise, the withdrawal points depending upon what is available and other factors.

Attached are the following documents to support the approval of our application.

1. Certified Photocopy of Certificate of Registration from _____ dated _____.
2. Financial Statement as of _____, duly audited by an external Accountant/Auditor.
3. Original copy of Board Resolution # _____ dated _____ series of _____ signifying our intention to participate in the program and authorizing _____ and/or _____ as our representative to transact business with NFA.

_____
President/Chairman

To be filled-up by NFA
Date/Time Received: _____
By : _____

Checklist
- ☐ Certified Photocopy of Certificate of Registration
- ☐ Audited Financial Statement
- ☐ Original Copy of Board Resolution -- to participate and to authorize representative
- ☐ Grains Business License
  - ☐ Retailing
  - ☐ Wholesaling
  - ☐ Warehousing
  - ☐ Transporting

Basic Information
- Allowable Volume in bags for purchase per month _____ *(not to exceed 5,000)*
- Networth (bags equivalent)_____

Certified Correct:

_____ Provincial Market Development Officer

_____ Provincial Accountant

_____ Provincial Registration & Licensing Officer

_____ Provincial Operations Officer/ Assistant Provincial Manager

Approved/Disapproved:

_____ Provincial Manager / Officer-In-Charge

SZOPAD SOCIAL FUND — SPECIAL ZONE OF PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
SOCIAL FUND PHILIPPINES

INVITATION FOR BID
SZOPAD SOCIAL FUND

Date : August 08, 2002
Loan No.: 799P
IFB - 02 - 08 - 02

1. The Government of the Philippines through the SZOPAD Social Fund has received a loan from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development toward the cost of SZOPAD Social Fund Project and it intends to apply a portion of this loan to eligible payment for the Off Grid Rural Electrification Project.
2. The SZOPAD Social Fund now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, delivery, installation, test and commissioning of the entire five (5) Packages of Off-Grid Power System, as follows:

Package 1.	Project Code	:	P12-00476
	Project Location	:	Pababag, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
Package 2.	Project Code	:	P11-00854
	Project Location	:	Capual, Luuk, Sulu
Package 3.	Project Code	:	P12-00475
	Project Location	:	Lambug, Parangan, P. Sugala, Tawi-Tawi
Package 4.	Project Code	:	P12-00477
	Project Location	:	Marang Marang, Languyan, Tawi-Tawi
Package 5.	Project Code	:	P11-00855
	Project Location	:	Kabukan, Panglima Tahil, Sulu

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedures specified in the OPEC Fund for the International Development procurement Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from SZOPAD Social Fund and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 2,000 per copy starting **August 12, 2002.** The method of payment will be on cash basis only.
6. Bids must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend at 10:00 A.M. on **September 16, 2002** at the SZOPAD Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and must be accompanied by a minimum bid security of 2% of the total bid amount.
7. Interested bidders are invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference to be held at SZOPAD Social Fund Office on **August 16, 2002** at 1:00 P.M.

Republic of the Philippines
SZOPAD Social Fund
3/F VHW (Land Bank) Bldg.
Veterans Ave., Zamboanga City
Tel. (062) 992-2684-86 / 992-2706
Fax (062) 991-9410
Email: Edlim@mozcom.com

Attn: MR. EDWARD I. LIM
Executive Director

(PDI-- Aug. 8, 9 & 10, 2002)

National Power Corporation
STRATEGIC POWER UTILITIES GROUP

INVITATION TO BID
SPUG-MMSS-02-0015

Interested suppliers are invited to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at the National Power Corporation, Small Power Utilities Group, 2nd Flr. Training Center bldg., BIR Road cor. Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

INQUIRY NO.	DESCRIPTION	OPENING DATE	TIME
PB020822-PDVB1210	COOLING TOWER, WATER SOFTENING UNIT & COOLING WATER PUMP	AUG. 22, 2002	10:00 AM
PB020822-PDVB1211	TRAVELING CRANE	AUG. 22, 2002	02:00 PM
PB020823-PDAC1213	VARIOUS CONTROL AND MONITORING TOOLS	PREBID: 8/16 OPENING: 8/23	10:00 AM 10:00 AM
PB020826-PDAC1214	TURBINE INLET CASE (NIIGATA)	PREBID: 8/15 OPENING: 8/26	10:00 AM 02:00 PM
PB020823-PDAM1215	VARIOUS TEST INSTRUMENTS	AUG. 23, 2002	02:00 PM
PB020805-PDAM1182	CRANKSHAFT FOR MAN	AUG. 21, 2002	10:00 AM
PB020805-PDVB1183	CRANKSHAFT FOR W. SUPERIOR	AUG. 21, 2002	10:00 AM
PB(2)020530-PDAM1073	STEEL POLE/LINE HARDWARE	AUG. 21, 2002	02:00 PM

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested parties starting **AUGUST 12, 2002** upon payment of P 100.00 per schedule, which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D., and company authorization. Issuance and receipts of documents are done every morning between 8:00 to 11:30 AM only at the above address.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SERVICES SECTION
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
PSD-SPUG

(PDI--Aug. 9, 2002)

HEADQUARTERS
PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY
Fort del Pilar, Baguio City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Philippine Military Academy is inviting interested manufacturers/ suppliers to pre-qualify and bid for the procurement of the Initial Clothing Allowance (ICA) and Combat Clothing and Individual Equipment (CCIE) of PMA Class 2007.

Initial requirements for the pre-qualification can be secured from the Academy Procurement Office, Gen. Lim Hall Building, Fort del Pilar, Baguio City and PMA Liaison Office, Camp. Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City during office hours.

A pre-bidding conference is scheduled on August 16, 2002 at (9:30 A.M. at the Longayban Hall, Fort del Pilar, Baguio City. ICA and CCIE samples/specifications and bid documents as well as instructions to bidders will be presented during this conference.

Manufacturers/suppliers who fail to attend a pre-bidding conference shall be disqualified from participating in the actual bidding.

For particulars, please contact the Secretariat, PBAC at: PMA Procurement Office, Fort del Pilar, Baguio City (447-36-85) PILTEL.

(Sgd.) **ARSENIO R. ARUGAY**
COLONEL (GSC) PA
Chairman (PBAC)

(PDI--Aug. 9 & 12, 2002)

NOTICE

Please be advised that the Embassy of Mexico will transfer to its new office at **2157 Paraiso Street, Dasmariñas Village, Makati City on Friday, August 9, 2002.** Our telephone numbers are 812-2221; 812-2212 and 812-2225 (Consular Section).

(PDI -- Aug. 9, 2002)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the:
SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS AND SUPERVISION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) UNIT HOT WATER TREATMENT PLANT AT TARLAC

Only pre-qualified bidders as of August 28, 2002 shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held on September 26, 2002 at the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Lobby, Quezon City at 9:00 a.m.

Pre-qualification forms shall be issued starting August 9, 2002 at SRA, Quezon City and the deadline for the submission of said requirements shall be on August 23, 2002.

The list of qualified bidders shall be released on August 28, 2002. Issuance of bid tender forms shall be issued starting August 29 for a non-refundable cost of Php 700.00 each.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on September 12 at the SRA lobby at 9:00 a.m.

All bids must be accompanied by bid bonds in the amount of 2.5% of the total budget allocation - either in cash, Manager's check or GSIS bond.

For further inquiries, please call:
THE SECRETARIAT - Metro Manila
SRA Bidding and Awards Committee
Tel. No. 929-68-37

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defect therein, and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI--Aug. 9, 10 & 11, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Province of Maguindanao
Municipality of Pagagawan

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

August 5, 2002

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds under contract for rural infrastructure component for which this invitation is issued.
2. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Pagagawan, Maguindanao as implementing partner of DAR for ARCP, invite prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and if eligible, to bid for the **CONCRETING OF TUNGGOL FARM TO MARKET ROAD.**
3. Eligibility statement forms and bidding documents may be secured by interested bidders at the Office of the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC) upon payment of non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php 5,000) per set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for eligibility must be received in sealed envelopes on or before **August 26, 2002**, addressed to: The Chairman, Bid and Award Committee, Municipality of Pagagawan.
5. A Pre-bid Conference shall be held on **September 3, 2002** at the Municipal Hall of Pagagawan, Office of the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee.
6. The submission and opening of bids will be on **September 10, 2002** at the Municipal Hall of Pagagawan. Late bids will not be accepted. The bid shall be accompanied by Bid Security of 2.5% of the approved budget cost or its equivalent and to be posted in favor of the LGU. The bid security shall be valid for 120 days.
7. The approved budget is **EIGHT MILLION FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY PESOS AND FOURTEEN (Php 8,520,220.14) CTVS.**
8. The Category/Classification of Contractors/Firm is "MEDIUM A".
9. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect of formality assume no obligations whatsoever of indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that may incurred in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Government. The provision of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as amended August 2000, shall apply to this invitation.

(Sgd.) **BAI ANNIE C. MONTAWAL**
Mayor
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI -- Aug. 5, 9 & 14, 2002)

NOTICE TO ALL LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (LBP) RETIREES

Please contact LBP Service Corporation (LBPSC) as soon as possible at Telephone Nos. **817-4936, 753-1625, 753-1412, 753-1413**, or visit its office at the 9/F Century Tower Building, 100 Tordesillas corner H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City for important information.

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EDGARDO "EGAY" LOZANO AVILA, M.D.

(4 JANUARY 1958 - 13 AUGUST 2001)

Bachelor of Science (PRE-MED), U.P. DILIMAN, 1974-1978
Doctor of Medicine, UERMMMC, 1978-1982
Past President, TARLAC MEDICAL SOCIETY, 1998-1999
Medical Director, ST. ROSE HOSPITAL, Paniqui, Tarlac, 1992-2001
Outstanding Physician, PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 1999
Outstanding Physician, TARLAC MEDICAL SOCIETY, 2001
Past President, ROTARY CLUB of NORTHERN TARLAC, 1997-1998

wife **Ruth Pambid-Avila**; children **Arion Andronicus, Meliza Rose, Althea Rose**; father **Dr. Rodolfo C. Avila**, mother, **Luviminda L. Avila**, brothers and sisters; **Noli** and **Mildred, Let. Bedict** and **Joey; Katy**, continue to seek your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

A special mass will be heard tomorrow, Saturday, August 10, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Rose de Lima Parish, Paniqui, Tarlac.

Jesus said: "I am the Resurrection, if anyone believes in Me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

ROMEO R. GAGUI

Director of Maritime Industry Authority - Region IV

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 6, 2002 at the age of 55.

His loving wife **Iya**; son **Mambi**; father **Benjamin**; brothers and sisters, brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Silang's residence, Ilijan, Batangas City to be transferred to Basilica de Immaculada Concepcion, Batangas City on August 9, 2002.

Interment will be at the Eternal Memorial Park on August 14, 2002 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at the Basilica de Immaculada Concepcion, Batangas City.

The Family and Friends of the late

EDUARDO L. SANTAYANA

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on July 24, 2002

Sincerely thank all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, gave generous gifts, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites, extended their support and services in countless ways, and who condoled and comforted us in our hour of bereavement. May you all be blessed.

"He rests... he lives... he is free."

"Papa, you are the light of our world. May your light continue to shine in our lives as we continue your legacy. Your presence will be deeply missed, but the memories of your love and goodness will continue to live with us and remain in our hearts forever..."

DR. GEORGE G. CO, SR.

Founder and Chairman of GEORGE OPTICAL INC.

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 6, 2002 at the age of 71.

His dearest wife **Belen**; children **Jr.** & **Valen, Liz** & **Solomon, Grace** & **Dennis, Jenny** & **Victor, Irene** & **Jon, Jojo** & **Jess**; grandchildren **Sheryl, Kevin, Sharlotte, KenKen, Shayna, Valerie, Solana, Vanessa, Alexandra, Samara, Nina, Andrea, Megan** and **Selimah**; in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, 1354 C. Raymundo Avenue corner Mercedes Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig City. Mass will be held daily at 8:00 PM.

Interment will be on August 13, 2002 at the Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Heritage Park Chapel. (Departure from Arlington East will be at 8:30 AM).

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes your kind donations to the numerous eye foundations that had been supported by the late **DR. GEORGE G. CO, SR.**

REMEDIOS ROCO VDA DE ATAYDE

"MEDY"

peacefully joined her Creator on August 7, 2002
at the age of 83.

Devoted wife to **Leandro S. Atayde, Sr.** (†);
steadfast guiding light to her children
Ramon & **Pilar, Ditoy** & **Cora, Eddie** & **Amy, Caloy** & **Carmita, Ditos** & **Fernando** (†), **Henry** & **Lizzie**;
doting grandmother to her grandchildren
Irene & **Alfie** (†), **Ramoncito, Arthur** & **Jojo, Jimmy, Michael** & **Deedee, Danny** & **Helen, Pompom, Bimbim** & **Mike, Dondon, Booboo, Peaches, Rizza, Bunny, Cristina, Javi, Mikel, Marimil, Martin** & **Joaquin**,
and her great grandchildren
AJ, Peachina, Montito, Isa, Arjo, Ria, Angela, Gabby, Mikee, Luigi, Lexie, Tea, Angelo and **Alyssa**;
and a pillar of strength to her brother and sisters
Dory (†), **Pitusa** (†), **Fining, Joseling** & **Peggy, Techie** (†) and **Menchu**, as well as to their spouses, nephews and nieces.
(Profound apologies for misspelled and omitted names in yesterday's obituary.)

Her family was deeply comforted by the early offerings of masses, prayers, flowers and messages of commiseration and will be very grateful if, in lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy will be donated to the Give A Life Project of the Philippine General Hospital Pediatrics Unit.

Her body lies in state at Capilla de San Francisco of San Antonio Church, Forbes Park, Makati City.
Funeral Mass on August 11, 2002, 1:00 p.m., will be held at the same Church.
After the Mass, her remains will be cremated at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium.

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❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

JOSE "Peping" REYES MIRANDA, JR.

Of Bacoor,Cavite

Beloved husband, daddy, lolo, brother and friend

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 6, 2002 at the age of 70.

His loving wife **Puring**; children and grandchildren **Annie** (+), **Joel** and **Girlie, Jerrold, Jamille, Jeshua** and **Jester, Jonie** and **Myra, Lawrence** and **Janelle, Joey** and **Anna, Breanne, Jaidan, Jondel** and **Baby, John** and **Toni, Monique** and **Robin, Pinky** and **Albert, Alfonso, Claire**; brother and sisters **Kuya Pikong, Ate Nena, Delia**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 208 Miranda Compound, Nestor Street, SMDP Andrea Village II, Bacoor, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 11, 2002 at Angelus Eternal Garden, Gen. Aguinaldo Highway, Bacoor, Cavite after the 3:00 p.m. Holy Mass at the St. Martin de Porres Church at Andrea Village I, Bacoor, Cavite.

"Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted."
Matthew 5:4

MILAGROS VILLARAZA TORRES

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 3, 2002 at the age of 72.

Her beloved husband **Dr. Bienvenido L. Torres Sr.**; children and spouses **Melinda & Sam, Robert & Cathy, Bobby Jr. & Marinete, Benjie & Bing, Malou, Darie & Raquel, Bonnin & Glenda, Bobet & Mymy**; grandchildren and relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Mines Hotel, Daet, Camarines Norte.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 10, 2002 at Risen Christ Memorial Park, after the 2:00 PM Mass at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Daet, Camarines Norte.

DA tightens inspection of milk imports

By Christine A. Gaylican

AGRICULTURE officials are set to issue an order requiring countries exporting meat, poultry and milk products to the Philippines to secure the services of independent quality-control inspectors.

The new measure is intended to prevent the entry of contaminated products to the country, National Meat Inspection Committee director Efren Nuestro said in an interview.

Countries exporting meat, poultry and milk products to the Philippines, including the United States, Belgium, Australia and Denmark, will have to hire inspectors who will guarantee that the products being shipped to the Philippines are not contaminated, Nuestro said.

Last month, the Department of Agriculture temporarily banned the importation of milk powder manufactured by a plant in Denmark following an order from the health department recalling the Danish-made GAIN milk products.

The ban and the recall order were prompted by an advisory from Danish authorities warning that some powdered milk products made by the Aria Foods Hamba (Arinco) plant in Vidabaek, Denmark, the main manufacturing plant of GAIN milk products, might have been contaminated by lubricating oil and microscopic steel flakes.

The ban came after the health department's Bureau of Food and Drugs announced that it was recalling all 200-gram pouches of GAIN milk products because of contamination concerns.

A memorandum from Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor also specifically directed Abbott Laboratories (Philippines), local distributor of GAIN products, to halt imports of powdered milk originating from Arinco.

It called for the immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation and issuance of veterinary quarantine clearances for the importation of milk powder from the Arinco plant.

Montemayor also instructed veterinary quarantine officers and inspectors at all major seaports and airports to stop and confiscate all shipments into the country of products from the Arinco plant.

3 groups notify gov't of insurance cross-selling plan

THREE groups have so far informed the Insurance Commission of their plan to enter into arrangements to cross-sell insurance products through bank distribution networks.

In an interview, Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis said Bank of the Philippine Islands and its insurance partner, BPI MS Insurance Corp., have formally notified him of their plan to venture into "bancassurance."

The other two groups that have sent formal notices are Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and its partner, Philippine AXA Life Insurance Corp., and United Coconut Planters Bank and United Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corp., according to Malinis.

He said two other groups led by Philippine National Bank and Banco de Oro Universal Bank were also interested into venturing into bancassurance.

"Bancassurance" is a French term referring to the selling of insurance through a bank's established distribution channels. The result is a bank that encompasses banking, insurance, lending and investment products.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has announced that it will allow banks to sell the products of insurance companies in which they have a 5- to 15-percent stake. ***Elena R. Torrijos***

Digitel says Smart delaying link-up

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. yesterday accused Smart Communications Inc. of filing a case against it to delay the interconnection of their networks.

In an interview, Digitel senior vice president William Pamintuan said Digitel had already spent over $100 million for its cellular network, and that the rollout was proceeding as scheduled.

"We already have a working system today. In fact, we already have handsets and SIM (subscriber identification module) cards that we're testing internally. The rollout is still ongoing. This can be confirmed with (our network equipment provider), Alcatel (Philippines Inc.)," he told the INQUIRER.

Smart has filed a case with the National Telecommunications Commission seeking to strip Digitel of its provisional authority to operate a cellular service on the grounds that Digitel has failed to meet the government's schedule in rolling out its services.

Pamintuan said, however, that Smart should have filed a complaint months ago when Digitel applied for an extension of its provisional authority with the NTC.

He explained that this request was filed in January, and that it was only granted in July, so Smart had six months to contest Digitel's application. ***Abigail L. Ho***

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Remember Camay, Veto, Pepsodent, Tancho Tique?

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

PEOPLE come and go and so do brands.

If you take a few minutes to think of some products and brands that used to be in your consciousness every day, but are now gone, you might come up with quite a few.

Business Friday got people together to reminisce about those ads and we have come up with a long list. (The bulk was supplied by Hemisphere—now Hemisphere Leo Burnett founder Greg Garcia):

In the '70s, Camay was probably the most popular soap brand in the Philippines. It was made by Procter & Gamble and the first faces tapped by the company for the soap include Maritess Revilla of the Revilla clan, known for its generations of beautiful women.

But the era of the beauty soaps has been replaced by the more practical deodorant or family soap and today the best-selling soap in the Philippines is Safeguard.

REMEMBER/ C2

Ad giants face accounting, earnings concerns

NEW YORK—As advertising giants Interpublic Group of Cos. Inc. and Omnicom Group Inc. prepare to release their second quarter results, the industry's accounting practices may take center stage, along with signs the nascent ad recovery is faltering.

Interpublic shares plummeted more than 25 percent on Monday after the company announced a last-minute postponement of its earnings date to give its audit committee more time to review its results.

The company, whose clients include Coca-Cola Co. and General Motors Corp., is now scheduled to release earnings results on Aug. 13.

That free fall was preceded by a similar decline in Omnicom shares in June, after a lead story in the Wall Street Journal questioned the company's accounting practices. The Securities and Exchange Commission made an informal request for information after the company hired KPMG as its auditor to replace Arthur Andersen LLP.

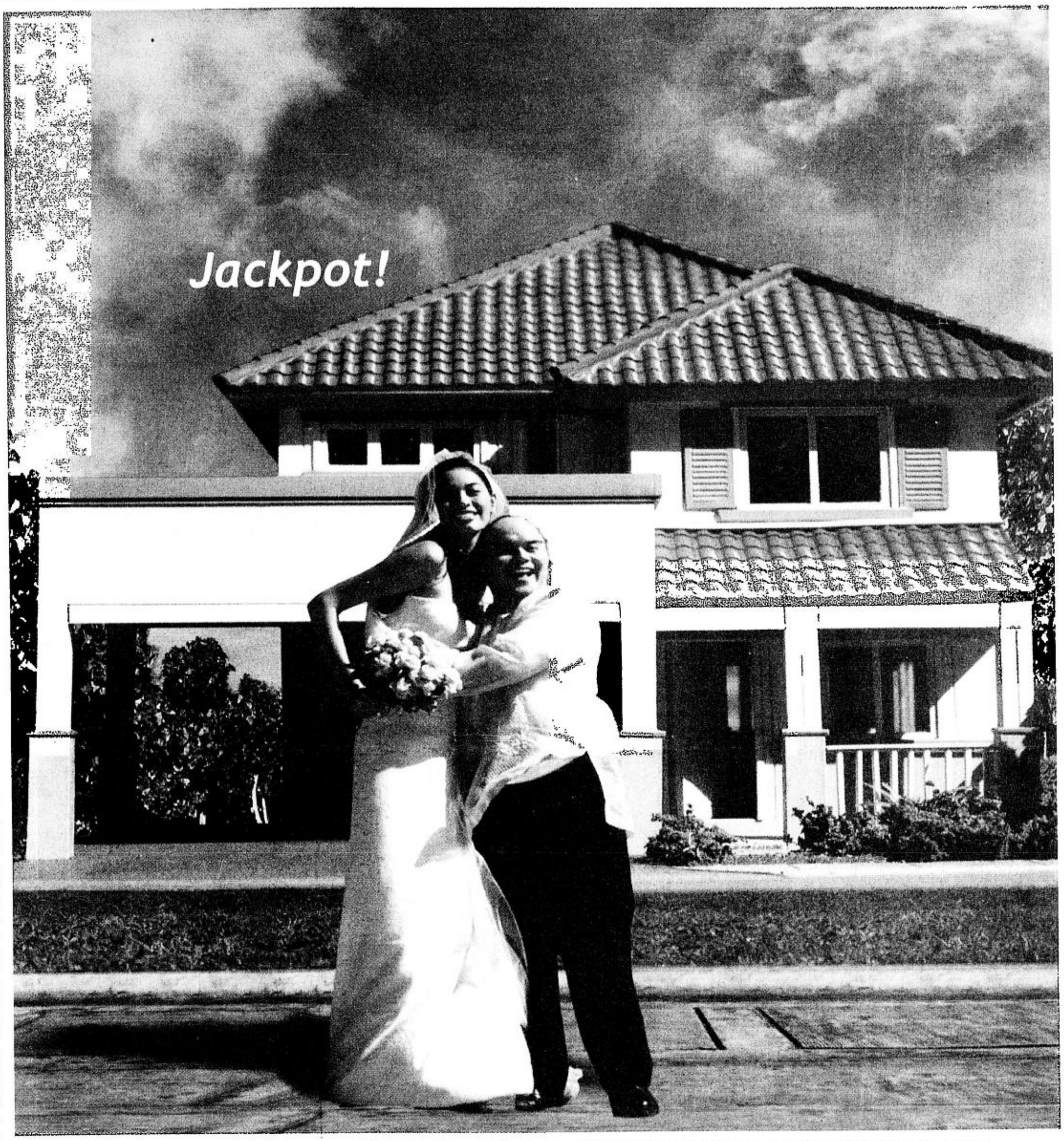
Omnicom, which has since posted reams of financial information in an attempt to quell investors' fears, is currently awaiting a verdict from KPMG.

If Omnicom and Interpublic post disappointing results or cut their financial guidance, the companies may be hit with the double whammy of accounting concerns and a stalled advertising recovery.

"The rebound everybody has hoped for in the economy and subsequently the advertising economy is really not happening," said SunTrust Robinson Humphrey analyst William Warmington.

"There's a strong likelihood the numbers and guidance will be moving down for the back half of the year."

Analysts on average currently expect Interpublic, the No. 2 global advertising and marketing firm according to the closely watched Advertising Age rankings, to post second quarter earnings of 39 cents per share, with estimates ranging from 35 cents to 42 cents, according to research firm Thomson First Call.



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*Fortune Magazine, July 2001

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E-linkage with excise tax establishments

By Jewela B. Espinar
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

INFORMATION technology has revolutionized the way people do business. Deals are now closed online at the click of a mouse and payments made electronically. Not to be left behind, the government made efforts to maximize the potentials that this technology offers.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has specifically been implementing rules and regulations to take advantage of information technology to better and faster serve the taxpaying public.

The E-trend in tax collection

Following the passage of the Electronic Commerce Act, the BIR began its campaign to introduce reforms in the system. Circulars encouraging the use of the electronic technology were released one after the other.

The very first was Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 24-2001 that paved the way for the voluntary enrollment of certain taxpayers with the Electronic Filing and Payment System.

EFPS is a system designed by the BIR for a paperless filing of returns and payment of taxes. The RMC provided large taxpayers registered with the Integrated Tax System with an e-mail account and Internet access and non-large taxpayers identified by the BIR commissioner with the procedures for enrollment under the EFPS.

With a number of qualified taxpayers enrolled under the EFPS, Revenue Regulation No. 9-2001 which outlined the guidelines and procedures for the implementation of the EFPS was issued. It made it possible for qualified taxpayers to file and pay within the comforts of one's home subject only to the requirement that they do so not later than 10 p.m. of the due date to ensure receipt of tax payments by the BIR.

On March 5, 2002, the BIR released Revenue Regulations No. 2-2002 amending certain provisions of RR 9-2001. This Revenue Regulation highlighted the shift from voluntary to mandatory coverage of the large taxpayers under the EFPS.

The Bureau's efforts to modernize BIR transactions did not stop at the filing and payment system. Revenue Regulation No. 5-2002 issued on May 6, 2002 introduced the concept of data and information transmission from excise taxpayers to the BIR via the Internet.

RR 5-2002: E-linkage with excise taxpayers

The power of the BIR to monitor the operations of excise taxpayers is anchored on Section 152 of the Tax Code. Section 152 vests the BIR with the authority to supervise establishments where articles subject to excise tax are made or kept.

Supervision over establishments of excise taxpayers meant monitoring not only the output but also the transfer of domestic excise taxable products to be able to safeguard the revenues due the government.

RR 5-2002 was promulgated not only to improve the efficiency of the BIR in the exercise of its supervisory powers over excise taxpayers, but more so to offer a more convenient system for excise taxpayers to comply with the reportorial and regulatory requirements of the Tax Code.

Electronic linkage refers to the system to be set up by the BIR to facilitate the transmission or submission of data and information required of selected excise taxpayers via the Internet.

RR 5-2002 provides that the BIR shall ensure high quality protection of such information to prevent unauthorized access. This provision guarantees that the extracted data and information shall be for the exclusive view and access of the BIR.

Prior to the issuance of RR 5-2002, monitoring the operations of excise taxpayers is done manually by internal revenue officers assigned to the establishments subject to excise tax. Under Revenue Administrative Order No. 9-00 the stockholding, inventory of raw materials, goods in process and finished goods, spot-checking, inspection and investigations of establishments, among others, are delegated to the personnel of the Excise Taxpayers Operations Division of the Excise Taxpayers Service.

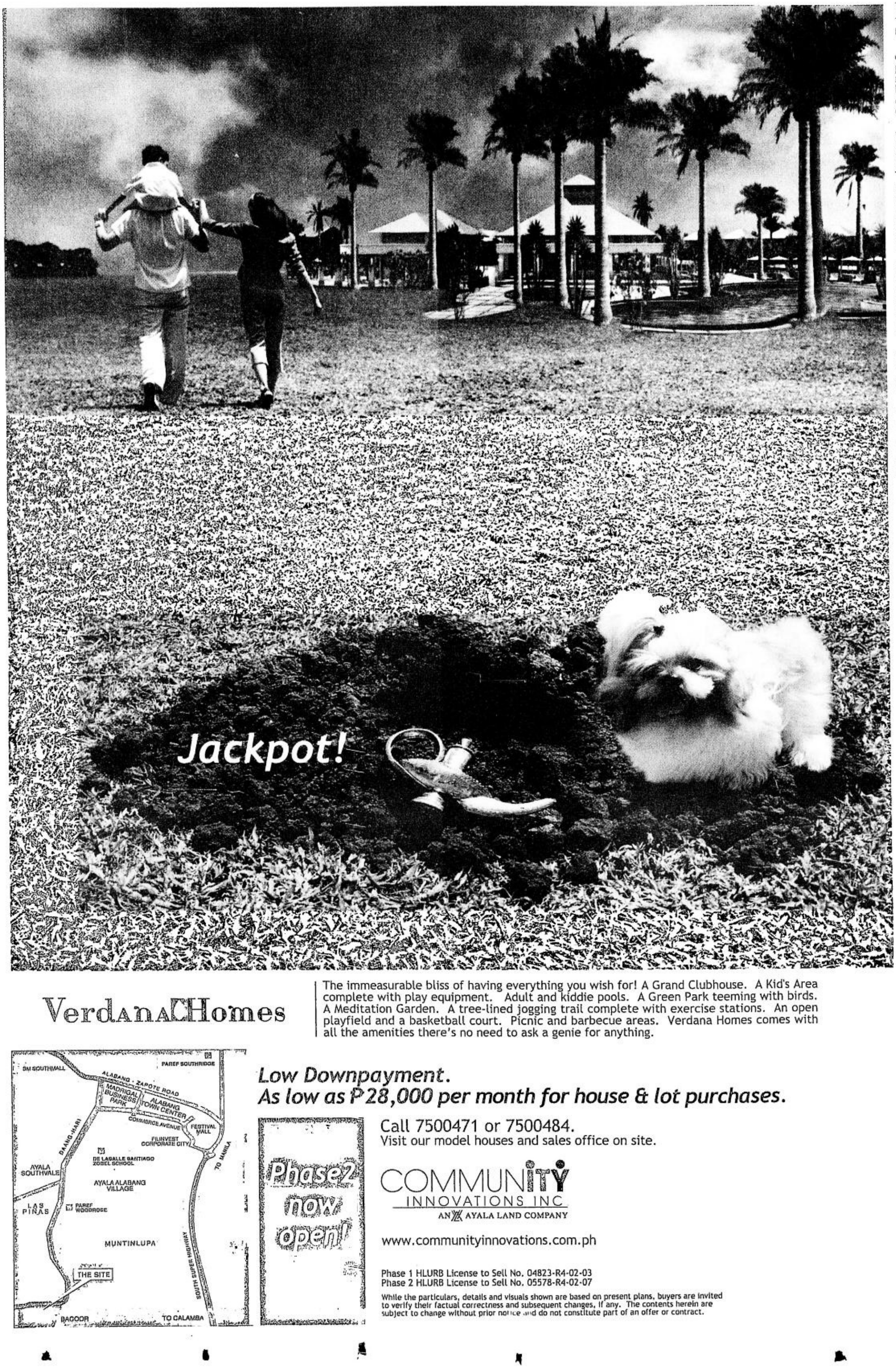
E-linkage under RR 5-2002 will do away with the "on-premises" functions of the internal revenue officers.

Coverage

The establishment of the e-linkage system is mandatory only for those excise taxpayers with computerized books of accounts and accounting system as identified by the commissioner of Internal Revenue.

The LTS-Excise Tax Group shall provide and brief the selected taxpayers with the guide-

E-LINKAGE/ C3



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Remember

From page C1

It has been concluded that Filipinos prefer the cheaper germicidal soaps over beauty soaps so P & G eventually phased out Camay.

They did try to revive it in the '90s but the figures did not add up so they decided to just stop production.

And who remembers the ad of Halo where a lady would make various forms on her head by supposedly using the bubbles from the shampoo?

It used to be one of the most popular shampoo brands in the country with its golden color but the shampoo made by Colgate-Palmolive also faded away like bubbles.

There was also a soap called Revive in the '70s, which was the answer to the introduction of Irish Spring.

From soap and shampoo, we go to deodorants. Do you remember Veto with its "hour after hour" line? Its main competitor Mum used the line "underarm alarm."

And before the dawning of gels and mousses, there was pomade for the hair. The more famous ones of course are Three Flowers and Tancho Tique.

Old Spice has made a comeback but a few decades ago its competitor was a brand called Mennen Skin Bracer, which was also an aftershave. The company, Mennen, also had Mennen baby products like powder.

When you think of a mosquito killer, other than the famous mosquito coil Katol, there was Flit, the insecticide spray.

For laundry, there was Daz, made by P & G in the '60s. It was a compact bar detergent, which may have been ahead of its time because it did not last.

Before Pronto and modern tiles, the floors were made of wood that needed to be waxed regularly. The most popular of which was Yco with the advertising line, "Sa Yco floorwax."

It used to be owned by the Elizaldes but was eventually sold. Before Ajinomoto, there was Vetsin Marca Manok.

For shoes, there were no Nikes and Adidas in the '60s, there was only Elpo Rubber shoes, made by Elpo Porvernir.

And for those who are old enough, who can forget "Yeye Vonnell" clothes. In the '70s there were Bang! Bang! and Faded Glory.

In the '80s, there was the very well advertised Prell shampoo (which P & G later replaced with Rejoice).

In the '90s, there was Pepsodent, made by Unilever. The agency used man on the street interviews to show people who liked it and the famous *"Lasang bebelgum"* became a household joke. But as fast as it rose, it disappeared as quickly from the shelves.

Selling richest man's good can be tough, too

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IF YOU think selling software products for a giant like Microsoft is a cinch, you've got another thing coming.

Microsoft Philippines Inc. marketing director Mark J. Yambot says that working under the banner of the world's omnipresent company was not without its challenges—from fierce rivalry with other software makers to a limited budget for piracy.

"Most people think our marketing would be a walk in the park but that is only true for our Windows operating system which is the undisputed leader in its class. But Windows is just one of Microsoft's software products and competition elsewhere is far more intense," Yambot explains.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Other products peddled by Microsoft in the Philippines include the .NET Enterprise Servers (such as the SQL Server 2000 and Exchange 2000) that supply the core solutions infrastructure for developing and managing enterprise applications and lay down the foundation for the next generation Internet-based e-business solutions and services.

Yambot says that Microsoft cannot rely on just its name to make a sale in the Internet-based products where competition was keener and not as lopsided as in the operating system.

YAMBOT

But Yambot says Microsoft's biggest threat was not from within the industry but from without—software piracy from the vendors that peddle bootlegged software programs in Greenhills to office workers who use unlicensed software programs.

The Philippines piracy rate of 63 percent is one of the most pervasive in Asia.

"Piracy makes our job a lot more difficult because our challenge is not only to convince clients that Microsoft products are the best for their business, but that it is worth paying a premium for original products rather than get the bootlegged version," Yambot says.

In making a sales pitch, Yambot says Microsoft Philippines emphasizes the immorality of stealing intellectual property rights. "Nothing justifies theft."

Next, Yambot says Microsoft Philippines lists down the advantages of getting original software such as less downtime, lower maintenance costs and technical support that, in the end, would justify the premium price.

He says that while Filipinos hanker for the latest stuff, most tend to keep their purse strings closed when being offered the latest version of software claiming that the old version was still serving its purpose.

Contrary to most people's expectations, Yambot says Microsoft Philippines has to work with a limited budget because billionaire Microsoft owner Bill Gates wants his overseas units to be self-sustaining.

He adds that Microsoft Philippines also has to maximize resources in its marketing efforts because its budget was hinged on sales performance.

"We don't spend on advertising and we try to keep overhead costs to a minimum. We have a very tight working staff where everybody must be capable of multitasking including making coffee for clients or cleaning up," Yambot says.

Microsoft Philippines uses more focused and cost-efficient marketing tactics such as product demonstrations and events in pushing its wares. It also conducts in-depth profiling of its client base to ensure that it is making the right pitch before knocking on the client's door.

E-linkage

From page C2

lines and data requirements, operational and technical specifications and other resource requirements for the e-linkage's proper implementation.

All data and information received by the BIR through the e-linkage is presumed to include all the recorded transactions and the same are exact replica of the pertinent data contained in the taxpayer's database.

In case of dispute or discrepancies in the details of information, the data shown in the BIR server shall prevail.

Troubleshooting

RR 5-2002 likewise provides for safety nets to avoid possible impediments in the exercise of the BIR's supervisory functions in cases of downtime or unavailability of the system. During such times, the taxpayer has to submit the required reports in diskette format readable and compatible with the existing environment.

In instances where the taxpayer plans to upgrade or enhance the system, which may affect the existing e-linkage setup, it is mandatory for the taxpayer to immediately notify the BIR in writing of such change.

In case the agreed data requirements are affected, such enhancement shall require prior approval of the BIR.

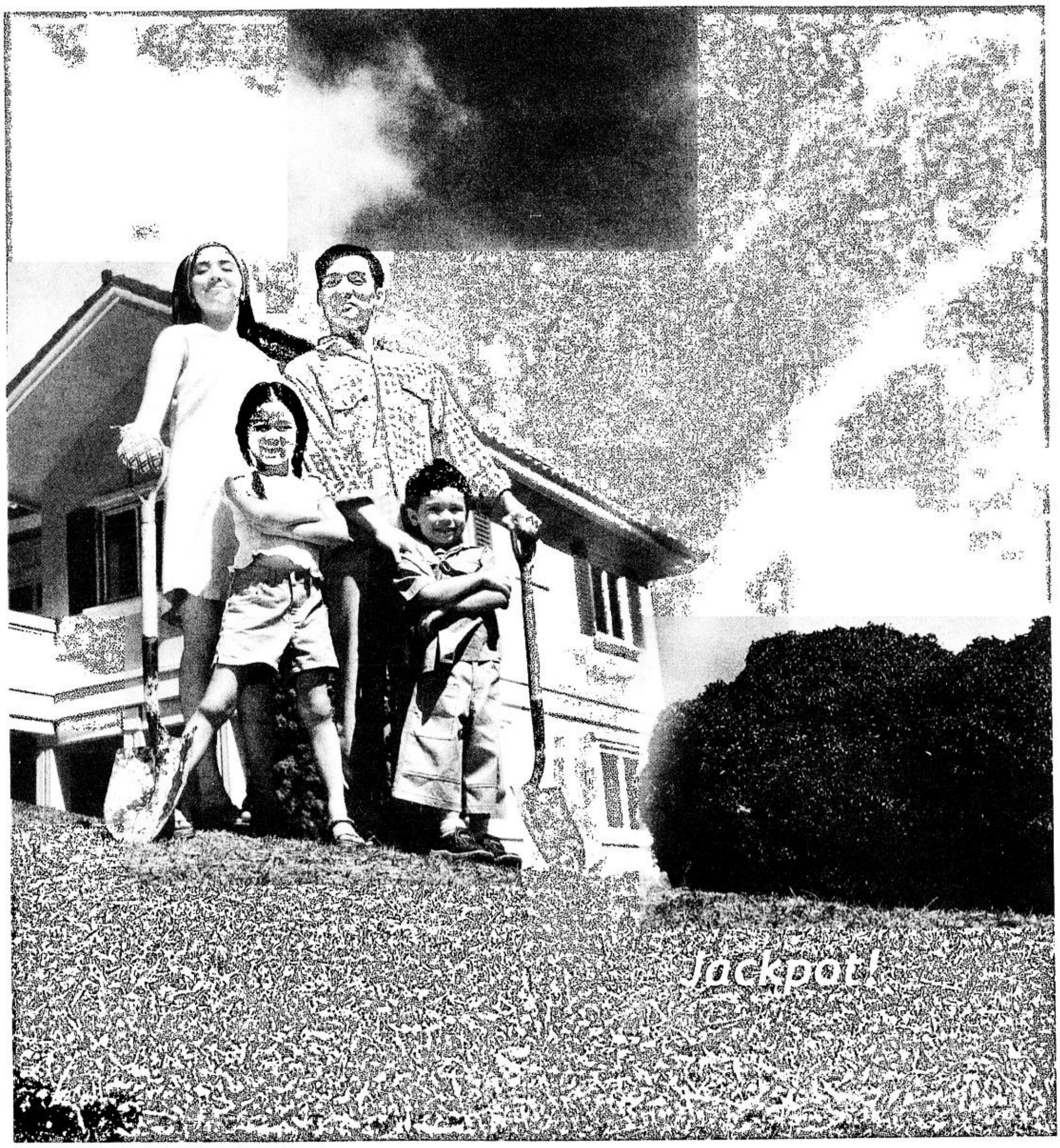
Parallel filing

Until the entire operations for e-linkage is completed, taxpayers who are already e-linked will still be required to file manually the periodic applicable tax information reports on the production and removals.

With the BIR getting the hang of electronic technology, we would be expecting more circulars exploiting Internet facilities designed to offer convenience to the taxpaying public without sacrificing the bureau's efficiency.

Procedure

Once the excise taxpayers that fall under the coverage of RR 5-2002 are identified, they shall be notified in writing by the commissioner. Upon notice, taxpayers must immediately coordinate with the large taxpayers service (Excise Tax Group).



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The Ateneo de Manila University and the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation in partnership to mold tomorrow's business leaders

Two national institutions, each with a reputation for excellence and leadership in their respective fields, have forged a formidable partnership to raise the bar of excellence in molding the visionary business leaders for the next generations.

The Gokongwei Brothers Foundation

In a span of six decades, John Gokongwei, Jr. has built a business empire through hard work, integrity, a sense of adventure, responsiveness to change and endless challenges. Added to his many attributes is his philanthropic side. But the generosity of "Mr. John," as he is fondly called by those who are close to him, is not without a reason. He believes that when he gives, it is not simply a "dole-out." He helps because he wants his recipients to help themselves.

This is why John Gokongwei, Jr., together with his brothers, Henry, Johnson, Edward, James and sister Lily decided to each contribute a portion of their shares in JG Summit Holdings, Inc. to put up a foundation that would benefit many. Thus, believing in the value of education, the Gokongwei Brothers foundation (GBF) was formed in December 16, 1992 for the primary purpose of uplifting the socio-economic condition of the Filipinos through the funding of education projects.

The GBF is a non-profit organization which currently owns a sizable share in JG Summit Holdings, Inc. The family and the foundation have assisted in funding various educational institutions in Cebu and in Manila. A yearly budget is allocated for the operation and expansion of its two major projects, namely; the GBF Technical School and the Children's Library.

THE GBF TRAINING CENTER

The GBF Training Center was established on July 1999 in Rosario, Pasig at the cost of P120 million. It is an advanced technical school for engineering graduates which has been patterned after the German dual system of technical training where students alternate between school and industry. Mr. Lance Gokongwei, director of GBF, believes that the success of the training center is a mutual endeavor between the center and the students. He relates, "by providing training from our end and dedication and commitment on the part of the Center's graduates, we will be able to provide the human resources that will give us a distinct competitive advantage beyond technology and capital."

THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Mr. Lance Gokongwei is the Chairman of the Children's Library, a non-profit multi-media library established in July 2000, which operates in Robinsons malls, and currently in Galleria, Novaliches and Imus, Cavite. It aims to contribute to the transformation of the growing child into a socially responsible person through the upliftment of the values of education and self-improvement in the nearby communities.

The library has Reading and Audio Visual sections where children and their adult chaperones can interact and read books together. It also offers free use of computer facilities. There are a wide range of activities such as story telling time, puppet shows and informative programs, film showings and special educational videos. The lobby of the library serves as a gallery of children's activities, artworks, projects and awards.

The Gokongwei Brothers Foundation through the Children's Library has envisioned a future where multi-media resources are accessible to every elementary school student.

In March 2002, as a continued commitment to fostering education and the spirit of entrepreneurship, Mr. John Gokongwei, Jr. and the GBF donated a generous endowment to the Ateneo de Manila University, thereby giving birth to the John Gokongwei School of Management.

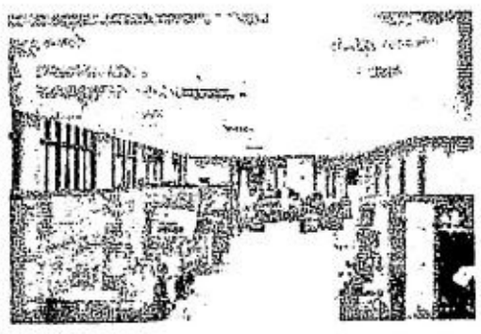
The first of its kind in the country, the landmark partnership between the Ateneo de Manila University and the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation to establish the John Gokongwei School of Management pools the resources of one of Southeast Asia's oldest and most prestigious universities and one of the region's most diversified and successful business conglomerates. Named after Mr. John Gokongwei, Jr., founder and Chairman Emeritus of JG Summit Group, the school envisions to be a regional powerhouse in the field of management education that develops business leaders who are ethical, motivated to excellence, technically proficient, interdisciplinary in approach, entrepreneurial in outlook, global in perspective, comfortable with the use of technology and yet humanistic and people-oriented.

Ateneo's new School of Management is clearly no stranger to the Jesuit ideal of *magis*, or excellence. But to build on its strengths and to achieve its full potential, the School looked for more resources.

In 1999, the Ateneo de Manila launched the Ateneo Capital Fund Campaign to tap its alumni network and the business community for the resources it needed to meet the challenges of the new millennium. The needs of its new School of Management were among those prioritized for funding: additional resources to finance faculty development, research and the infrastructure requirements of the School.

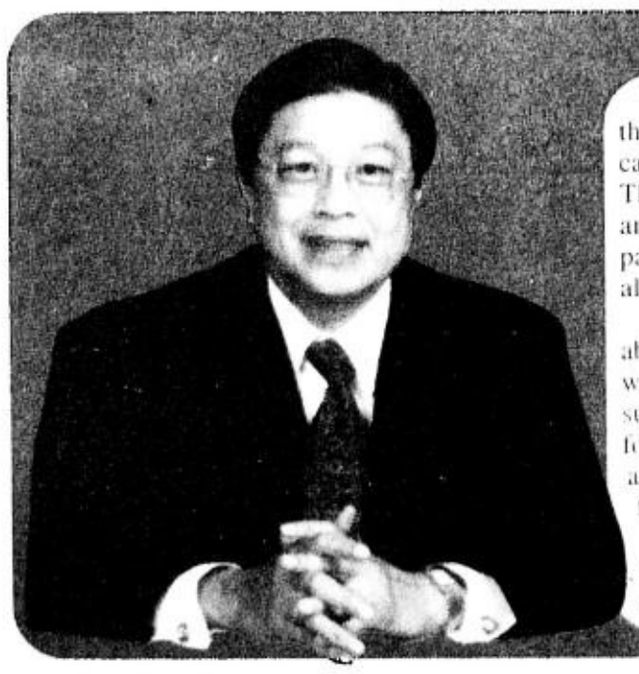
Through the efforts of Mr. Octavio Espiritu, Chairman of the Ateneo's Board of Trustees, Governor Gabriel Singson, former Central Bank governor and active alumnus of the Ateneo, and Fr. Carmelo Caluag II, S.J., Vice President for Planning and Development and Alumni Affairs, the Gokongwei family was approached in 2001 for a donation toward the proposed School of Management building.

THE TIMING COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE FORTUITOUS



The JG Summit Group was at that time going through its own series of transitions. Foremost among these was Mr. Gokongwei's decision to retire and to turn over management control of the Group to his brother James and his son

IN THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE



"One may ask – why name the school after this man, Mr. John Gokongwei, Jr., fondly called Mr. John by those who work with him. This is the very same question discussed among members of the Board of Trustees, particularly the Jesuits who are guardians of all that is Ateneo.

The Jesuits who are very knowledgeable about many things that happen in this country were aware of Mr. Gokongwei's business success – in industry, in manufacturing of food, textiles, property and retail businesses, airlines and petrochemicals, banking and finance and many others.

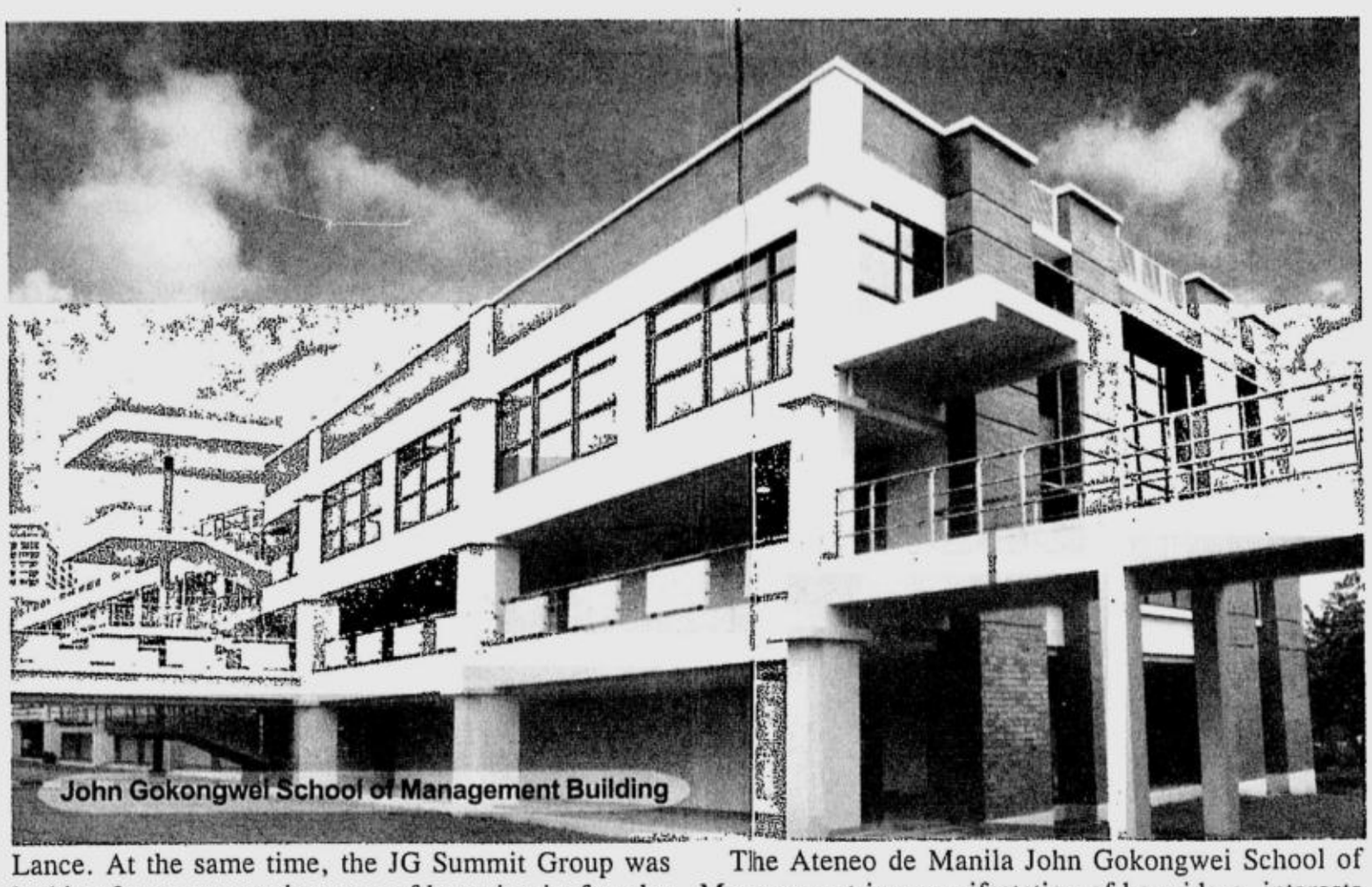
All were satisfied that the leadership he has shown in all fields of business he has chosen to be involved in – his leadership and example will serve as an inspiration to the thousands of students that are in and will come to our School of Management and after they graduate, there is the hope that many of them will become entrepreneurs like Mr. John.

Mr. John literally built all his businesses from scratch, brought these businesses to what they are today. No political connection at all, just plain old-fashioned hard work with a lot of business acumen. He is devoted to his family, his wife and children, brothers and sisters and their families.

I have known Mr. Gokongwei for 28 years now, and I have been associated with the Ateneo for nearly 25 years. It is with deep personal satisfaction that the names of the two –Ateneo and John Gokongwei, both of whom I have had a long association with – will now be fused together in the School of Management in the service and pursuit of excellence.

We are certain that the Gokongwei family takes pride in that the School of Management will be named after Mr. John. The Ateneo de Manila University is equally proud and having done so, must now be aware of the responsibility that remains in its hands on ensuring that the John Gokongwei School of Management is and will continue to be the best business school in the country."

Octavio V. Espiritu
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Ateneo de Manila University



John Gokongwei School of Management Building

Lance. At the same time, the JG Summit Group was looking for an appropriate way of honoring its founder and recognizing his contributions not just to their organization but to national and regional economic development as well. What better way to honor a visionary leader than to develop the visionary leaders of the next generations? Simply making a donation toward the construction of a building would not have been enough.

MEETING OF MINDS

The fit was apparent: Mr. Gokongwei's legendary business acumen and leadership in the business community makes him uniquely suited as a role model for young leaders-to-be. The Ateneo's track record and reputation for forming technically excellent business graduates with a strong moral compass fit perfectly with a business organization known for its drive for achievement and excellence and its high professional and moral standards. The JG Summit Group through its Gokongwei Brothers Foundation wanted to make a major contribution to the continued growth and sustained competitiveness of the Philippine economy. And what better way to achieve this than by contributing to the training and formation of the young leaders who will fuel this growth.

With the aspirations of the Ateneo and its School of Management and the desire of the JG Summit Group/Gokongwei Brothers Foundation to honor its founder and Chairman converging, the **Ateneo de Manila John Gokongwei School of Management** was born.

A FIRST IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY

The decision to name Ateneo's School of Management after Mr. John Gokongwei, Jr. is a landmark event.

In the western hemisphere, most notably in the United States, naming business schools after patrons and business leaders is a longstanding tradition: the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, the Kellogg School of Northwestern University, the Darden School of the University of Virginia and the Sloan School of M.I.T. immediately come to mind. But this has never been done before in the Philippines.

The Ateneo de Manila John Gokongwei School of Management is a manifestation of how ideas, interests and vision can converge to become reality. It provides a new model for partnership between industry and institutions of higher learning in the Philippines.

RAISING THE BAR OF EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS EDUCATION

The Ateneo de Manila University John Gokongwei School of Management was officially established in March 2002, with the unveiling of a commemorative marker in the presence of the Gokongwei family, the Ateneo's Board of Trustees, and Education Secretary Raul S. Roco.

The new John Gokongwei School of Management building will be officially inaugurated tomorrow, August 10, 2002. This intelligent building, fully wired and internet-capable, houses the faculty offices, the faculty lounge, the faculty library and a technical resource center. It has a full complement of tiered case study rooms and mini-lecture halls, two free access computer laboratories, a student project room, and a variety of different-sized conference rooms and consultation rooms. It will eventually have full conference facilities. It is truly a space where minds can interact and where learning can take place.

The partnership between the Ateneo de Manila and the JG Summit Group goes beyond the development of infrastructure. A generous Endowment Fund from the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation enhances the school's ability to constantly raise the bar of excellence through student scholarships, faculty development programs, research and outreach programs, curriculum development and design.

The Ateneo de Manila University John Gokongwei School of Management is the first of its kind in the country, a testimony of how shared visions and actions can converge for the common good. The John Gokongwei School of Management Building on Ateneo's Loyola Heights campus is a symbol of the power of partnership and of the endless vista of possibilities and opportunities such a partnership can bring.

FROM A BICYCLE TO A BUSINESS EMPIRE

... "Call it trite but believe me, success can be achieved through hard work, frugality, integrity, responsiveness to change - and most of all, boldness to dream. These have never been just easy slogans for me. I have lived by them.

My father died when I was 13, leaving me, the eldest, the responsibility of taking care of my mother and five siblings. That was tough for someone who was 13. Creditors had just seized our home and business and I had no experience with earning a living. But here I am- I somehow survived. And when I look back, I know now that I did so because I recognized CHANGE when I saw it.

The first change was when I turned 15. My mother had already sent my brothers and sister to China where the cost of living was lower. From Cebu, she and I had to make money to send to them.

I turned to peddling. My day began at 5 in the morning. I would load my bicycle with soap, thread and candles and then bike to neighboring towns to sell my goods. I would make about 20 pesos a day.

At 17, I did my trading through a *batel*, a small utilitarian boat that defied the open sea and would take me farther from Cebu to Lucena.

At 19, I set up Amasia, my first company. It was to import textile remnants, fruits, old newspapers and magazines and used clothing from the U.S.

Then my brothers and sister returned from China. Together we worked in the trading business I had begun, as *bodegeras*, clerks, warehousemen, cashiers and collectors.

By the 50's we were importing cigarettes and whiskey. In 1957, I started a corn-milling plant producing glucose and cornstarch. The unglamorous cornstarch it turned out, would be in great demand from better known businesses like textiles, paper, ice cream, pharmaceuticals, and beer.

I needed capital. Thankfully, Dr. Albino Sycip and DK Chiong, then Chairman and President, respectively, of China Bank, gave me a clean loan of P500,000 to start my business. From there, Universal Corn Products, the predecessor of Universal Robina Corporation (URC) was born.

We then put up Consolidated Foods Corporation (CFC), and our first successful product was Blend 45, an instant coffee we put out to directly compete with Nestle's Nescafe.

The success of URC opened up many opportunities for our group. In six decades, we grew from a one-man team to a group with 30,000 employees.

As I look back, I ask myself," What if I had stopped at cornstarch?" But I chose to live my life unafraid even during times when I was afraid. I discovered that opportunities don't find you. You find your opportunities.

Now I'm 75 and retired. I often wonder what ever happened to my first bike! That bike reminds me that success is not necessarily about connections or cutting corners or *chamba*.

Choose to be entrepreneurs because you create value. Choose to be an entrepreneur because the products, services and jobs you create then become the lifeblood of our nation. But most of all, choose to be an entrepreneur because then you desire a life of adventure, endless challenge, and the opportunity to be your BEST SELF."

John L. Gokongwei, Jr.
Chairman Emeritus
JG Summit Holdings, Inc.

The John Gokongwei School of Management Vision and Mission

The John Gokongwei School of Management at the Ateneo de Manila University seeks to strengthen its position as a center for excellence in undergraduate manage education in the Philippines.

It aims to do this by molding *competent and ethical global management leaders*, who imbibe the Ignatian spirit and ideals, by delivering relevant general management programs with a holistic, multidisciplinary and practical approach, grounded in a strong liberal arts foundation.

- The School seeks to continue its distinctive contribution to business and industry by *educating and shaping future business leaders*.
- The School aims to continue its contribution to the expansion of the small to medium-sized sectors of industry through the *development of dynamic and ethical entrepreneurs* who play a critical role in driving economic growth.
- The School endeavors to further its eminence in the field of management leadership by engaging in relevant *research and consultancy projects*, and by taking positions on national and economic issues consistent with its values and strategic thrusts as an institution.
- The School seeks to forge *strategic partnerships* in the business and industry sectors for collaborative efforts that contribute to national and economic development.

Programs offered at the John Gokongwei School of Management

The John Gokongwei School of Management offers the following programs:

B.S. Management: Heavily project oriented, this program is entrepreneurial in its focus. It is one of the largest undergraduate program of the Ateneo de Manila and has as its centerpiece a culminating and integrating hands-on project where senior students are actually required to run a year-long micro-enterprise in groups of five or six.

B.S. Management (Honors Program): This program is a more rigorous version of the entrepreneurial B.S. management program offered only to the top ten percent of all enrolling students.

B.S. Management Engineering: The Management Engineering Program is a highly mathematical management program which emphasizes the scientific aspects of decision-making. It prepares students to deal with the complexities of modern management in the corporate sector with substantive training in statistics, operations research, economics, as well as organizational behavior. The strength of the program is its well-balanced discipline of business sense and management ethics through a quantitative approach.

B.S. Management, Major in Legal Management: Designed to create managers with a working knowledge of the legal environment within which all enterprises must operate. On top of the regular business curriculum is a law curriculum which will cover all major components of law that are encountered by businessmen. Although not primarily designed to be so, it is also an excellent preparation for law school.

B.S. Management of Applied Chemistry: Managers who run businesses dealing with chemistry-based products, such as pharmaceuticals, processed foods, rubber and plastic will benefit from the sort of training provided by this program. Students are provided with a working knowledge of chemical processes used in manufacturing operations on top of their training in the major functional areas of business. The centerpiece of the program is a sequence of courses that will allow the students to use marketing research, product design and business plans to launch new products in as of yet unfilled niches.

B.S. Management, Major in Management of Communications Technology: An interdisciplinary program that incorporates courses from the fields of mass communication, computer science and telecommunications into the business curriculum to create managers who are conversant with the creative process as well as the technologies that are an integral part of the modern-day communication process.

It is especially designed to increase the pool of trained managers for the country's burgeoning communications industry.

Students enrolled in any of the aforementioned programs may also cluster five of their electives to complete minors in any of the following areas:

Financial Management
Information Technology
International Business
Marketing
Strategic Human Resources Management
Production and Operations Management

The school jointly runs and provides the management and business courses for the following programs from the other schools in the ADMU

A.B. Management Economics *(School of Social Sciences)*: This program combines courses from both Business and Economics to create managers who will have both the micro view of how these businesses are run and the macro view of how these businesses interact with other forces within the larger economy.

B.S. Management Information Systems *(School of Science and Engineering)*: It is designed to produce professionals who can harness information technology to meet business objectives. The program promotes MIS as a field and as a career, discusses the tools necessary for the profession, and provides in-depth analyses of the issues surrounding MIS operations. Graduates from the program can expect to become system analysts and project managers of a firm's MIS department.

A.B. European Studies *(School of Social Sciences)*: There is a European business track under this area-studies program, made up of seven different business courses aimed at providing students with the business functional area skills combined with an appreciation and understanding of this unique European business context within which these skills might be applied.

Finally, the school also offers a 'business cluster' of courses for students enrolled in A.B. Interdisciplinary studies and A.B. Economics programs.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2002

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

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Ateneo Business School of Management named after John Gokongwei

THE ATENEO de Manila has received a grant from the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation (GBF) to establish the John Gokongwei School of Management, a business school that both institutions expect to make a significant contribution to the growth and development of the Philippine economy.

Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres SJ confirmed that the Gokongwei family donated P200 million to the University for new facilities, research and faculty development of the School of Management. The school was officially renamed last March with the unveiling of a commemorative marker, and its new building will be officially inaugurated on Aug. 10.

The school offers specially designed academic programs that are at the cutting edge in business education. "This partnership's vision is to mold ethical and competent business leaders of tomorrow. Gokongwei's business acumen and leadership makes him the perfect role model for our students," Added Nebres.

This endowment is seen as the Gokongwei family's lasting contribution to the continued growth and sustained competitiveness of the Philippine economy.

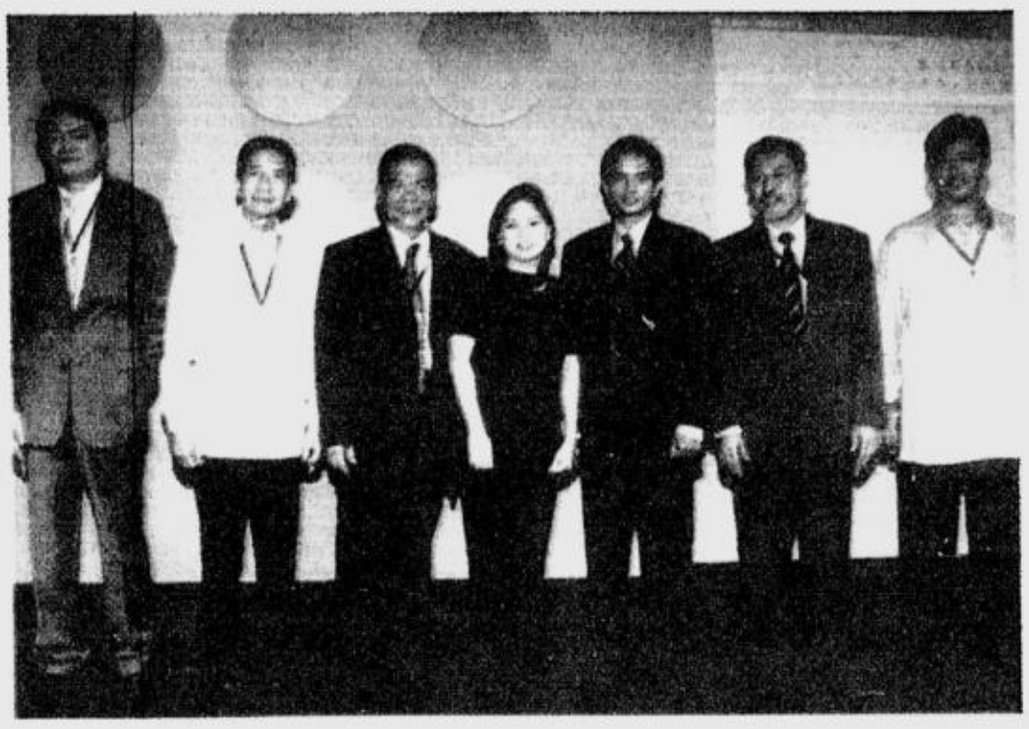
The John Gokongwei School of Management is designed to become a regional center of excellence and leadership in business education by promoting the best practices in business and management, eventually influencing national policy by advocating positions on key business issues of national interest.

The school presently offers the following programs: BS Management, BS Management (Honors Program), BS Management major in Legal Management, BS Management Engineering, BS Management of Applied Chemistry and BS Management major in Management of Communications Technology.

This partnership between the Ateneo and the GBF provides a new model for partnership between industry and institutions of higher learning, and is a benchmark in the history of Philippine Business education.

Naming business schools after patrons and business leaders is a long-standing tradition in the West, particularly in the United States. However, the John Gokongwei School of Management is the first of its kind in the Philippines.

The school is headed by Dr. Emmanuel T. Velasco, dean. It is composed of four departments headed by Dr. Venus C. Ibarra (finance and accounting), Ricardo H. Mercado (leadership and strategy), Rodolfo P. Ang (marketing and law) and Mary Ann Capistrano (quantitative methods and information technology).



PETRON GASUL DEALERS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Coinciding with the 38th anniversary of Petron Gasul, its dealers held their national convention at Mandarin Oriental Manila. Shown from left are Danny G. Uy, executive vice president, Arsenio L. Gonzales Jr., external vice president, Adelio R. Capco, president, Jocelyn L. Benipayo, treasurer, Alfredo A. Carlos Jr., secretary; Jose Nelson D. Doloiras, PRO, and Johnny Young, internal vice president.

UPOU PRODUCES 1ST PED GRADS

The University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) in Laguna produced its first batch of graduates for the Personal Entrepreneurial Development (PED) course for its distance learning program March to June 2002. Shown, (first row, from left) are Bernard Brillante, Dr. Fortunato T. Dela Pena, DOST undersecretary and senior advisor, Nilo Alterado, George Kasunuran, and Larry Cruz, program coordinator. Standing, from left, are Myla Beatriz Gregorio, Drs. Bing Naceja and Dinah Pura Depositario, junior advisor, Loreta Veluz, and Angelica Guevarra. On Aug. 10, the second course offering for PED starts, as well as the New Enterprise Planning (NEP) course. For more information, call (049) 536-6010 and look for Larry Cruz.

Feel great by treating your skin well

ADMIT it or not, most of us love to be pampered. One way to be pampered is to treat oneself to a refreshing spa, massage or even a facial to relax our sore muscles and body pains. This is the reason numerous spas, salons and parlors have sprouted like mushrooms all over the country offering various treatment and packages to their loyal and new customers.

Significantly, experts also advise regular spa treatments and massages to help rejuvenate the body and spirit, keeping one away from the daily burnout and unnecessary body pains that can ruin one's day.

For the ladies, there are different choices to select from. Spa and body treatments such as body wraps and envelopes effectively help the body rid itself of toxins, poisons and excess fluid.

Herbal wraps, meanwhile, help sore, aching muscles and relax muscular tension that may be causing pain. Taking a spa "time-out" will also relax one's mind and refocus thoughts to solutions instead of feeling like there is nowhere to turn. Body wraps can likewise refine the skin texture and improve skin suppleness. Scars in the skin are also diminished during regular treatment.

Complementing spa treatments and body wraps is the massage. Coming in an array of different forms, the simple massage can help relax sore and tight muscles especially for those who work hard during the week. By using deep strokes and friction, a massage can also aid in removing toxins from the body, leaving you feeling refreshed after undergoing the method.

Just like having a perm or a new hair dye, women enjoy foot spas and/or hand/arm massages. Not only do they relax and rejuvenate their tired muscles from daily household chores, foot spas and hand/arm massages also hydrate the skin, leaving it smooth, glowing and more relaxed.

The ongoing nationwide tour of Vaseline Lotion dubbed "Vaseline Lotion Healthy Skin Tour" offers soothing foot spas, hand and arm massages for the mothers among us. During the sessions, expert female masseurs will be using Vaseline Lotion to make mothers' skin soft, smooth and moisturized.

After the spa or massage, mothers notice that their skin immediately glows with health – because of Vaseline Lotion – something they can truly be proud of.

Undergoing a spa or massage are personal treats that we all love to have once in a while. As personal bonuses, these treats also make us feel great about ourselves and bring beneficial results to our health and skin.

LIPTON ICE TEA FOR BURGER KING

Lipton Ice Tea seals its partnership with Burger King in a ceremonial contract signing held at the New World Hotel. Lipton is now the exclusive ice tea drink of all 36 branches of Burger King outlets in the Philippines. Combo meals with Lipton Ice Tea are now available in all stores, giving their loyal patrons continuous quality and affordable meals. Raymund Acedera, vice president for marketing for Lipton and Butch Nazareno, president of Burger King Philippines seals the deal with a handshake.

BITS & Clips

Win P711,111 at 7-Eleven

7-ELEVEN marks its 20th anniversary with the launch of its biggest promotion ever, the 7-Eleven Jackpot Match-Up. For every P51 purchase, customers get a 7-Eleven Scratch Card. Scratch off the panels to reveal instant food prizes: a Big Bite hotdog, an Oden treat or a Gulp drink. The Scratch Card also serves as a raffle coupon. Just fill it up and place it a drop boxes located at all 7-Eleven stores. More than 800 cash prizes are waiting for lucky 7-Eleven customers. There will be one winner of the P711,111 grand prize, three winners of the P71,110 second prize, 50 winners of the P7,110 third prize and 811 winners of P711. The last day for submission of entries is on Aug. 11. The draw date is on Aug. 16.

SPCM HS '82 relives good old days

THE GLITTERING days of Lady Diana hairstyles , kung-u and crayon shoes, and the glitzy "bagets" looks are making a comeback as St. Paul College of Manila's high school batch 1982 slates its 20th year reunion on Aug. 10. All alumni from the batch are invited to relive the animated times in an afternoon until evening of fun and memories. Spend exciting hours sharing up to date information, pleasantries and even wistlines. Be a part of this momentous gathering. Get in touch with Ondete Pajarillo at 0917-5328765 or Blandi Benito at 0916-4760204.

A SHIRT COMPANY WITH A BIG HEART

Rizal High School in Pasig City, listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's biggest high school in terms of population, receives school IDs for its 25,000 students from teen apparel brand Molecules and Particles. Present during the symbolic turnover rites at the school are (from left) Robert Tan, operations manager, Molecules Jeans, Kristopher Peralta, celebrity endorser of Molecules, and Fe Bandelaria, assistant principal of Rizal High.

ABC5, JVC AND WESTERN MARKETING TIE-UP

Cybercams top dealer JVC, Western Marketing Corp. and ABC 5 are joining forces for the first time for a bigger, better 'WoW Mall' funny home video contest which begins Aug. 10. Dubbed as 'Western-JVC WoW Mall Textawa Home Video Contest,' the five-month promo is reinforced by a texting or SMS component to generate audience participation and to encourage viewers to send their home-made funny video clips. Under the agreement, JVC will provide the prizes consisting of one JVC Digital Camera and one JVC VHS-C Camera every month for the duration of the contest, plus a 34" flat TV with DVD home theater system and a 53" rear projection TV at the grand finals in December. Present during the signing of the memorandum of agreement July 25 were (from left) ABC vice president for local production Vivian Recio, JVC general manager Kazue Salud, ABC executive vice president Roberto Limgenco, Western Marketing chief operating officer Christina Ngo, and ABMC chief executive officer Dennis Caballin.

Laundry and dry cleaning seminar

A SERIES of seminars is being held for eight consecutive weeks, every Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. hosted jointly by the first Philippine Institute of Laundry and Dry Cleaning and Grist Chem Corp., a premier supplier of laundry chemicals, at its corporate headquarters conference area at 18 General Avenue, GSIS Village, Project 8, Quezon City. It is free of charge to members, sponsors and affiliates. This Aug. 10, the third week of the seminar will tackle topics on efficient dry cleaning and wet cleaning techniques. Resource speaker is Tom Ranon, laundry manager of five-star Dusit Nikko Hotel. The seminar is in line with Pildi's vision to strengthen the laundry and dry cleaning industry by way of proper education and training. For details, call the Pildi secretariat at 433-0035 or visit its offices at 47 Maginhawa Street, UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

HORMEL EXEC VISITS FIGARO

David Longacre, vice president for Asia-Pacific of Hormel Foods (second from left) was treated to a sampling of Spam specials, an array of Old World dishes made delectable with Spam at Figaro Coffee Co. in Emerald Avenue. Longacre's recent visit was part of the first ever food service tie-up of Spam in the Philippines. Also shown are Figaro's Chit Juan (CEO) and Reena Francisco (standing) and Hormel's Hilda Tolentino (second from right), who prepared the recipes for the Figaro-Hormel Spam promotion. Log on to www.figarocoffee.com for more details.

People, Events & Products

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Environmental management course

THE ASIAN Institute of Management, through the Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center (Excell), will offer a three-day course on Greening Business for Competitive Advantage from Aug. 12 to 14. Given the controversies surrounding the enforcement of environmental regulations in the Philippines and elsewhere, the course was purposively designed to help decision-makers develop their companies into environment-friendly organizations and eventually use this as their competitive edge. Program director is professor Purba H. Rao, author of "Environmental Management Systems in Southeast Asia—Towards a Green Millennium (AIM-2000)". For details and reservations, call Edythe Bautista of Excell at 894-0043 or 892-4011 locals 209, 526 or 228.

Cocolife enhances people's lives

FREEDOM to live your life the way you want it – this is Cocolife's philosophy and it has been working well for everyone who has anything to do with Cocolife. It is to the credit of Cocolife thinkers and planners that the noble concept of helping people enjoy and understand freedom has been made part of Cocolife culture. Hence, it is now a footnote to every Cocolife plan. This corporate credo has been creatively manifested in diverse and many ways but they all converge in one common goal: enhancing the welfare and well-being of people under the wings of Cocolife.

One of these beneficial strategies is the Cocolife Fund Builder Rider. Conceived to bring great benefits to its policyholders, this fund opens up opportunities for policyholders to get better returns from their investible funds. Cocolife helps its clients who have money to invest by providing them with a safe venue for their money and thus gives them the freedom from worry and anxieties.

Under the Fund Builder Rider, policyholders are encouraged to deposit money with Cocolife for the purpose of paying future policy premiums and other supplementary contracts. The funds can be also intended to provide policy enhancements or additional benefits. The deposits earn more than the savings deposit interest rate prevailing in the banks each year and these can generate cash reserves for pension, retirement and other financial needs.

According to Artemio A. Tanchoco Jr., Cocolife's first vice president for finance, any person who applies for or has an existing insurance policy with Cocolife with a face amount of at least P250,000 for a permanent plan or at least P1 million for a term plan may elect to avail himself of the rider for a minimum opening and maintaining fund level of P10,000. In the case of group permanent plans, the minimum opening fund level required is P50,000.

To optimize its benefits to the policyholder, the Fund Builder Rider has been packaged with other Cocolife products into what Cocolife now offers as Freedom Plans.

The first Freedom Plan caters to every Filipino's dream of being a millionaire. This is the appropriate plan for young professionals who look forward to being secure early in life. The issue age of this plan starts at 20 and ends at 50. The minimum face amount of this plan is P1 million with a payment period of 10 years and lifetime insurance coverage.

The other Freedom Plan is the Dream Freedom Plan. This plan caters to your dreams. It may be a dream of owning a car, a house and lot or a trip abroad.

The Dream Freedom Plan is a packaged product that is payable for 10 years. The insured is covered for life for P500,000. The insured will get P250,000 on the 5th and 10th year while his policy continues to earn dividends. Likewise, Dream Freedom Plan provides the insured with lifetime insurance coverage.

CATCH THE JAGUAR

MTV Philippines marketing manager Christina Lopez (left), Jaguar executive director Marc Soong and Cecon brand manager Jeanne Tanos sign into agreement the Catch the Jaguar promo. The promo, which runs from Aug. 11 to Oct. 25, will have its grand draw on Nov. 8 with the winner driving off with a brand new Jaguar X-Type. Watch MTV Philippines on Channel 41 (Channel 45 on Destiny cable), spot at least three 'Jaguar stingers' every week, and on an empty box of Ascorbic Acid Cecon 500mg 100s write down the number on the Jaguar stingers collar, the date and time the stingers appeared, and your name, address, number, age and signature. Drop them off at designated Mercury Drug drop boxes, TGI Fridays Metro Manila outlets, Italianni's Metro Manila outlets, Tower Records Metro Manila outlets, 89.9 DWTM office, or mail to PO Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, Makati City 1256.

Are you safe from termites?

What insects cause as much property damage as fire? Believe it or not, the answer is termites, and you could be their next victim.

Termites – which are incorrectly referred to as "white ants" – have plagued man for centuries. Fossilized termite nests have been found in rocks over 220 million years old. There are about 2,000 different species, and they're found mainly in tropical countries like the Philippines.

These insects are considered serious pests in many parts of the world because they damage plants, houses and other wooden structures. Of the three groups of termites, the smallest and most destructive are the subterranean termites that build their nest underground. These nests or termitaries are huge elaborate colonies, interconnected by a complex network of passageways.

The king and the queen of the colony belong to the royal or reproductive caste – the highest group. Their sole occupation is the production of eggs. These termites live longer than other members of the caste do – sometimes as long as 10 years. The queen grows as much as 20,000 times the size of other termites to hold as many eggs as she can. In a day, she lays about 50,000 eggs. A colony may contain from 100 to more than 1 million termites.

From the colony, worker termites tunnel their way to wooden structures, searching for food. They feed mainly on wood, paper, cloth and other material containing cellulose. In the process, they destroy wooden posts and buildings, bridges, books and furniture. Given enough time, they will feed on the wood until nothing is left but a shell.

To save your home from termites, here are some tips from Aventis Environmental Science (850-4169), makers of Termidor – the safe and effective low-dose termite treatment that offers 100-percent protection from termites for a full 5 years.

- Because termites need moisture to live, remove sources of moisture in wood – repair leaks, relocate drains, and install sump pumps.
- Eliminate food sources of termites like tree stumps, construction debris from under the house or near the foundation.
- Monitor your house regularly – at least once a year. Be wary of warning signs of termites like soft, crumbly wood, wood riddled with tunnels, fecal pellets or shed termite wings.
- To stop termites, use Termidor – the unique anti-termite solution that works two ways even at low doses. First, Termidor protects structures by killing termites on the spot. Unlike other synthetic termicides that simply repel termites, Termidor's active ingredient – fipronil – is fatal to termites yet gentle on plants, earthworms and other soil microflora. Second, Termidor destroys the termite colony by contaminating foraging termites. When termites encounter ultra-low doses of Termidor in the treated soil, they pick up fipronil and pass this on to other termites before they die. In time, the entire colony is infected and the other termites die. No other product acts this way.

MDCLUB, EQUITABLE CARD SIGN AGREEMENT

MDClub and Equitable Card recently inked a co-branding agreement which will entitle MDClub members to enjoy exciting perks and privileges on their Equitable American Express credit cards. MDClub is a trading identity of MD Synergies, which encompasses a medical practice management and lifestyle publication and a privilege club, providing doctors with exclusive advantages in purchasing goods and services. Shown, from left, are Anthony Conway of Equitable Card's office of the president, Antonio Go, Equitable Card president, Dr. Tito Torralba, MDClub president, and Dr. Gregorio Pastorfide, MDClub director.

PETER PAUL, QUANTUM FOODS AGREEMENT

Peter Paul Philippine Corp., operator of the largest single production facility for desiccated coconut in the world, has inked an agreement with Quantum Foods Inc. for the local distribution of its new canned products Peter Paul Coconut Milk and Peter Paul Coconut Cream. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) Noel Casanova and Cesar Lota, general manager and president, respectively, of Quantum Foods Inc. and Jose Quimson and Angie Galang, president and sales manager, respectively, of Peter Paul Philippine Corp.

BITS & Clips

Award-winning candles at Alabang

"THE GIFT of Nature" is the theme of the candle design from Sevilla Candle Factory, which won the grand prize during the First Philippine Candle Design Competition held last June at Forbes Park, Makati City facilitated by the Product Development and Design Center of the Philippines. The candle is specially made with natural ingredients, such as 100-percent lead-free wick blended with a soothing aroma to create a relaxing atmosphere. The silver goes to Docs Candle of Lipa City, the theme of which is of nature's collage. The bronze goes to "Candle of Hope" of Effigy Enetrprises of Quezon City. These candles and the other finalists are available for public viewing at the Carousel, second floor of the Festival Supermall, from Aug. 15 to 28 during the Gift of Nature Exhibit hosted by Philtrade Exhibits. Call 820-7879 or 820-1570.

Guided meditation on 'Remembering Abba'

BASED on the psycho-spiritual teaching "A Course in Miracles", the guided meditation centers on the theme "Remembering Abba", with brief talk and two visualizations. It will be held on Sunday, Aug. 11, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at Sterten Place, Teacher's Village, Quezon City with catering by Along Came Mary and Brews & Browns. Call Amy P. Cavosora at 925-2795, 0917-6089625 or amelia33@yehey.com for more information.

WORLD CONGRESS IN DERMATOLOGY

Dr. Evangeline B. Handog, president of the Philippine Society of Cutaneous Medicine (PSCM), recently came from the 20th World Congress in Dermatology in Paris, France. She lectured at the Women's Dermatological Society meeting the day preceding the congress at the Marriott Hotel, Paris. She was among the panelists who gave talks on 'Dermatology Around the World'. She was also the Philippine delegate to the Assembly of Delegates of the International League of Dermatological Societies. PSCM is a member of the International League of Asian Dermatological Societies. It is also an affiliate of the Philippine Medical Association. Handog, second from left, is shown with Dr. Jesus B. Tan, Dr. Leonore Kakita, Women's Dermatological Society president Dr. Ma. Teresita Callueng, and Dr. Barbara Nichols.

SENATOR PRESENTED WITH AFP MANUAL

AFP Vice-Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling presents to Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. the updated version of the AFP manual. The 10-volume manual, which has a CD-ROM version, gives a comprehensive and detailed presentation of the AFP organizational structure and its systems and procedures, personnel development, procurement, career management, morale and welfare, discipline, law and order, retirement and attrition, civilian personnel affairs, budget and data management. It also has a section on Philippine laws dealing with military personnel matters. With Camiling are Brig. Gen. Carlos Garcia J6 (second from left) and RAdm. Antonio Siapno J1

MAMA SITA'S JOINS BALAYAN'S PARADA NG LECHON

Mama Sita's Mixes and Sauces paraded its One Hot Lechon in two-piece red swimwear at the recently held Parada ng Lechon in Balayan, Batangas, to the delight of the crowd who were treated to free bottles of Mama Sita's Sarsa ng Lechon. Marking the third time that Mama Sita's was invited to grace the occasion, the one-of-a kind food festival also served as the perfect time to launch the tastier, more delectable all-around Sarsa ng Lechon, one of the first products in Mama Sita's line of appetizing mixes and sauces. Other products sampled during the different events in Balayan include Mama Sita's Pure Labuyo Red Hot Pepper Sauce, Mama Sita's Caldereta Mix, Mama Sita's Sinigang Mix 18g, and Mama Sita's Adobo Mix. For more of Mama Sita's Mixes and Sauces, visit www.msita.com. Shown is Mama Sita's marketing staff and the dressed-up One-Hot-Lechon that participated in the parade.

BUSINESS*Friday*

Firms can give values to the public via ads

By Roger Pe
Contributor

COMPANIES invest millions of pesos in product development and research. More millions are bankrolled to build their brands and push their products off-the-shelves.

In turn, they get millions of sales annually. And with multimillion-peso worth of advertising monies to spend, advertising agencies try to outsmart and outbid each other to win their businesses.

Even in an economic downturn, gung-ho marketers spend millions if they want to make a dent and reinforce their presence in the consumers' minds.

Across the globe, Germany's projected ad spend for this year is $16 billion with the United Kingdom and France forecasting a robust $14 billion and $8 billion, respectively. (Figure source: Adageglobal).

South Korea leads the pack in Asia, and yes, Indonesia is perking up, giving the region's economic landscape a brighter picture. In the Philippines, a combination of two or three heavy advertisers could amount to millions of pesos.

A communications student once asked an adman: With their huge advertising budgets, do companies apportion some money to do advertising for the good of the public? Are there companies that do not care how often their brand names are mentioned or how small their corporate logo is shown just to make an ad for a better cause?

Are there media institutions that broadcast public service advertising at prime time, not when everybody is asleep? Are there still publications that give free space for a good advocacy campaign? Is there a creative way of promoting Filipino values via a brand?

A great adman once said, "we in the media have a responsibility to our society. We can vulgarize it or lift it onto a higher level." With the way companies are raking in money from millions of sales does anyone care about advocacy or ads with a soul anymore?

Fortunately, yes.

Jimenez D'Arcy's "Bowls" for I Can Serve Foundation; TBWA-SMP's "Mabuhay" for GMA Network and "Nurse," "Metro-Aide" and "Konduktora" for Teodora, JWT's "Independence Day," "Bullets" and "Stitches" are just some of the ads we would like to see and hear again. Too bad they had little ad budgets and are now off-the-air.

On branded ads, McDonald's has been largely successful in this genre. It has become one of the most endeared brands in the Philippines today because of one campaign that touched the very heart of the Filipino consumer.

Its depiction of a simple but true-to-life grandfather-granddaughter situation in the television ad "Karen" is simply heartwarming.

The recent campaigns of PLDT, Revicon ("Buntis" by Basic Advertising) and WWF/Philippine Daily Inquirer are worth mentioning. San Miguel, Filmex and ABS-CBN did their share with a call for reforesting the La Mesa Dam watershed and saving Palawan.

They pooled their manpower and creative resources and came out with "Ode to Joyce Kilmer" campaign without spending a single cent, all for the public good.

To the people who make an extra effort in squeezing some time and money to help build our country and promote Filipino values that are now slowly becoming extinct, thank you.

To recognize the people behind these ads, the Philippines' Adboard is now accepting nominations and entries to the 2002 Araw Values Awards.

As the name suggests, it's a creative competition for campaigns that help espouse and promote Filipino values. *(For more information, please call 818-6113 or 818-6158.)*

Calendar showcasing indigenous games gains int'l recognition

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FOR showcasing the oft-forgotten beauty of Filipino culture through traditional games, Petron Corp.'s Art Petron National Art Competition got for the Philippines its first Bronze Anvil Award from the Public Relations Society of America.

Petron was also the first non-American firm to win the award. Petron and its creative partner Studio 5 designs bested such companies as Taco Bell and Motorola for the category "effective use of creative tactics in a public relations campaign."

Petron advertising officer Charmaine V. Canillas told Business Friday in an interview that the concept just came out of a conversation between Petron officials who wanted to put a new spin into their annual calendars.

Previous calendars delved on themes such as the country's natural wonders and bridges brought to life through professional photography. For 2001, Petron wanted to do away with the photographs, so why not paintings?

"After discussions with our creative partner we decided to have a student art competition and then use the winning entries for our calendar. Since there were other art competitions, we wanted ours to be different," Canillas said.

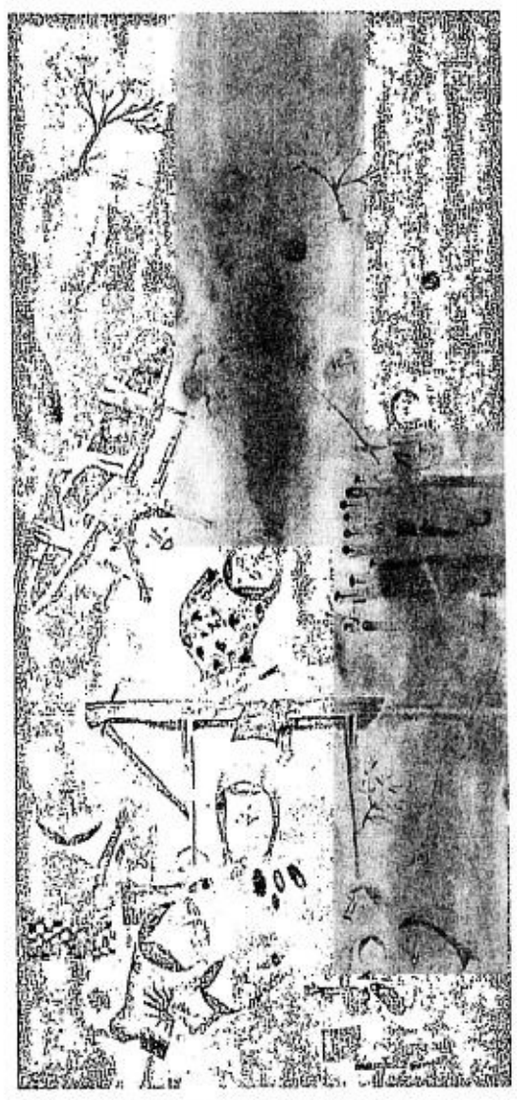
So unlike other art competitions, Petron laid down a theme and opened the competition to all college students, including those out-of-school youth taking art lessons from galleries or museums.

The theme last year was "Lumang Laro, Bagong Likha" which brought to light Filipino indigenous games.

"At first we just looked at it as a competition for the calendar but it became so much more. We were overwhelmed by the response," said Marilyn Orosa, Studio 5 president.

Total participation in the first Art Petron Contest was 712 percent more than other art contests. Schools in all 16 Philippine regions participated and there was a 12-percent increase in calendar orders because the Petron dealers loved the calendars.

The wide participation of students across the Philippines in the student art competition and the advocacy of highlighting Filipino culture caught the attention of the judges of the PRSA.



"KARERA ng Tsinelas" by Romeo R. Forbes Jr.

"Petron Corp. has shown the finest example of creatively overcoming a public relations challenge," said Catherine A. Bolton, executive director and COO of PRSA, the world's largest professional organization for public relations professionals.

The winners featured such Filipino games as *tatsing* (bottle caps in a square), *piko* (hopscotch), *ober-ober* (strike the slippers game), *kadang-kadang* (bamboo stilts race), *karera ng bangkang tsinelas* (rubber slippers race) and *bahay kubo* (hut).

Petron was included in the PRSA contest through its affiliation with the Public Relations Society of the Philippines. All winners of Anvil Awards of Excellence (Petron won three) were included in the contest. Only Petron came out on top.

"TATSING" by Romeo Jose E. Rosete III

"OBER-Ober" by Orley Y. Ypon

For this year, Petron set the theme "Lumang Galing, Bagong Sining" which will highlight indigenous skills and crafts practiced for more than 25 years in the provinces and communities in oil and watercolor paintings by students.

Some interesting subjects include *parol*-making in Pampanga, *bakya*-making in Laguna, boat-making in Zamboanga, textile weaving in Lanao del Norte, wood carving in Mountain Province and marble cutting and shaping in Romblon.

"We really did not think that it would go this far but we were proud of our effort. We have become advocates of Philippine art and culture," Canillas said.

Housewives take skills to market and hit pay dirt

TRUST housewives to find every means possible to ride the tide of economic difficulty and come out unscathed—even radiant if possible.

This is the case for a group of housewives and relatives of Meralco employees who broke free from their four-cornered worlds and became entrepreneurs in their own right by putting up their own multipurpose cooperative.

Employees of Metro Manila's electricity distributor have not been spared the troubles brought about by the economic slump. A survey conducted among Meralco employees two years ago showed that most of its workforce had little take-home pay left after taxes, SSS, loans and other deductions. Whatever is left of their salaries had to be stretched to cover household expenses, children's education and other financial obligations.

A series of consultations led Meralco to sponsor free livelihood seminars for the employees' dependents to help augment their salaries. The seminars offered included meat processing, candle making and baking. Each employee was allowed to enroll one dependent—his or her spouse, a child, a parent, or any other family member—in one livelihood course for free.

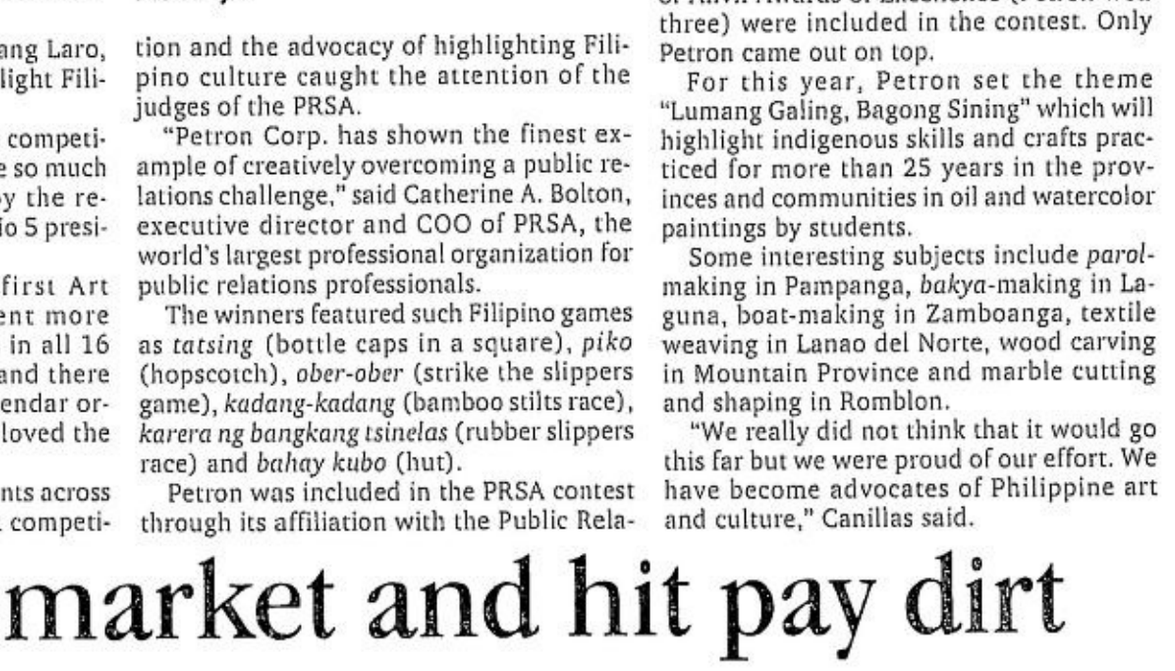
As expected, the response was overwhelming.

"Eight hundred employee dependents have enrolled in the livelihood program since we started last December 2000. Most of them are housewives who want to earn some extra money to help their husbands. Some even come back for a second or third seminar, which they can avail of at discounted rates," says Grace Waga, program manager of the Livelihood Skills Program and Cooperative.

The meat processing courses are the most sought after. "About 80 percent of those who enrolled took up food related courses," Waga observes. "Basically, they know that it's easier to sell food. They don't even need to put up a store to sell their products. They can sell to neighbors or friends who can pay them on an installment basis. Even if they don't sell, at least they can prepare let's say *longganisa* or *tocino* for their own consumption and won't have to buy from the supermarkets."

The success of the livelihood program encouraged the participants to form their very own cooperative. There is after all more strength in numbers. By pooling their resources, they would have additional capital to produce more goods, more capacity to ensure the quality of their products and a better chance to market these products.

The cooperative was founded last February and about a hundred graduates of the livelihood program have already become members. Their first big project is a stall in the Power Plant Mall called Home Front where shoppers can buy an assortment of products made by members of the cooperative—from candles, to baskets and bags—at very affordable prices.



MOST take up food related courses because everybody knows it is easier to sell food.

"Many of our members are very talented. Many already had their own skills even before they joined the cooperative. By becoming members, they were given another marketing arm for their products. They don't have to rent store space to sell their products because they can sell these through the cooperative's stall," says Merle Martinez, chair of the multipurpose cooperative.

She is married to a lawyer in the legal services of Meralco and like many of the other members of the cooperative, had been a housewife for a number of years. She immediately enrolled in the meat-processing course after learning of the livelihood program and came back for a second seminar on fresh flower arrangement.

Sales at Home Front have been coming in fast since the stall was inaugurated last June. Not even the members expected their project to be so lucrative. But more than being an additional source of income, the cooperative has become a venue for building camaraderie among members and a means to develop their individual personalities.

"It's a good way to keep busy and to have more friends," Martinez says. "Most of us were plain housewives before we had this cooperative."

Waga adds, "Before they joined the cooperative, the housewives are usually confined to the four corners of their homes. Now, they have more confidence in themselves. They can present themselves and their ideas to a group, they developed their negotiating skills by doing business with suppliers. They've also learned to be more creative. They have to make sure that their products are packaged nicely to make them more appealing to customers."

The cooperative is now busy preparing to set up their next outlet—a souvenir shop at the MML Development Center, a corporate training facility in Antipolo City.

"At first the members were overwhelmed by the projects but that is part of the process. Through the programs we gave them, they have been equipped with the skills they need to make this successful. They have to learn these skills and go through the process because a cooperative is a serious business," Waga says.

SALES at the cooperative's stall have been coming in fast since the stall was inaugurated last June.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

trend spotting

Easy does it

By Cheche V. Moral

BUSY working women don't deserve "busy" clothes.

That's what ready-to-wear designer Efren Ocampo bears in mind when designing clothes for his eponymous label for SM Boutique Square. He says as a woman's life gets more complicated—balancing career and family—dressing up should be the least of her worries.

"Clothes should be 'easy,'" Ocampo says. "That's my design philosophy. I don't like busy clothes."

The pieces he made for Lifestyle's pictorial have clean, classic silhouettes—simple but not

EASY/ p.D2

EXPRESS ADVICE

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Always keep your ATM PIN (Personal Identification Number) and ATM transactions private. Be sure to change your PIN when you sense it has been compromised.

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WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

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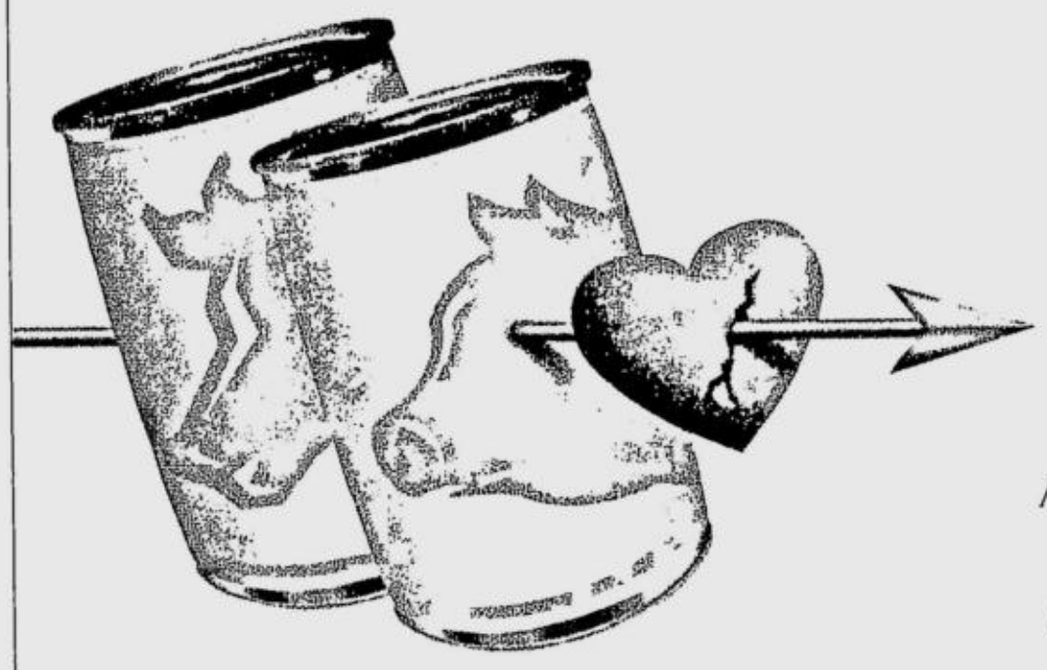
Cellulite is accumulated in your skin's deeper layers to bulge out in unsightly "orange peel" areas on your buttocks, hips and thighs. But here's the good news. You can control the look of cellulite in 6-8 weeks. Cellasene, the clinically-tested breakthrough cellulite pill has sold 15 million packs in 25 countries and is the top selling brand in Europe and Japan. Developed and made in Europe, Cellasene is a

The naked truth!

potent blend of natural plant extracts that work naturally within your body. Cellasene may improve the appearance of cellulite on your buttocks and thighs to a firmer, ideal shape. With 2-3 capsules a day, see and feel the difference. And that's the naked truth.

Ask for Cellasene at Rustan's (Shangri-la, Cubao, Harrison Plaza), Mercury Drug and Watsons.
Call 817 1352 InfoText 0917 813 6885

Why hurt your heart?



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Enchanted Kingdom

The wizard has finally met his match.

Just when you thought the Enchanted Kingdom experience couldn't get any more magical, we're bringing in the Prince of Magic himself, Jeff Simon. Let him thrill you and enthrall you with his showstopping wizardry from June 29 to August 18, every Saturday and Sunday, 4 and 7 pm. Get your tickets at the Launch Pad for only ₱75, and you'll see that the magic is really here.

Park schedule is from June 28 to August 18: 10 AM to 7 PM Fridays, 10 AM to 10 PM Saturdays and Sundays. For inquiries, call 840-2111 to 16

SMART Simply Amazing! PEPSI

CRIMSON NYMPH. Red off-shoulder blouse with ruffle detail and matching skirt

Easy does it

From page D1

IN FULL BLOOM. Off-shoulder floral-print georgette dress with bell sleeves

PHOTOS BY XANDER ANGELES

MODEL: ANNETTE CORONEL-CRUZ

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY LOWELL BUENAVENTURA

SHOES BY FIGLIA

ALL CLOTHES AVAILABLE AT SM BOUTIQUE SQUARE

ALL SHOES AND RED BELT AVAILABLE AT THE LADIES' DEPARTMENT OF ALL SM BRANCHES

BLACK WITH A VENGEANCE. The little black dress—ruffled and belted

LIGHT AND SHADE. White knit cardigan over strapless black-and-white jersey dress

Efren Ocampo sticks to no-fuss, no-non-sense clothes that cater to the busy woman

STRIPED SENSATION. Striped chiffon skirt with asymmetrical hemline, brick cotton knit cardigan and mustard tube top

Easy does it

From page D2

boring, pretty but clearly practical. They are subtly sexy and sophisticated, feminine but not cloying.

Using fabrics that are light and easy to maintain—cotton knits, jerseys, georgettes, chiffons—Ocampo sees to it that he addresses the wage-earning woman's need for clothes that go a long way.

Conservative but creative

"A Filipina is a conservative dresser compared to her contemporaries in Singapore, Hong Kong or Japan," Ocampo notes. "This is not because she lacks imagination. It's mainly because of the economic factor."

Ocampo says the regular corporate woman can't afford to blow her paycheck on faddish clothes that will be old news in a few weeks. "She'll buy clothes that will take her a long way," he says. These are timeless, practical pieces she can easily accessorize and introduce her own style into.

The New York-trained designer, however, manages to infuse some trendy elements into his clothes—but always in moderation. For some pieces in this collection, he says he took inspiration from Tom Ford of Yves Saint Laurent.

Ocampo's renditions of the much-favored off-shoulder dresses carry some ruffle details. But instead of the billowy sleeves and blousy bodices of the peasant frocks that have glutted the scene of late, his versions are figure-skimming and with narrow, tapered sleeves, flaring only into bells at the elbow or wrist.

He makes it a point to come up with pieces that will appeal to the broad age range of his market—18-55 years old, or what he calls "young adult to young matrons."

"It's always a challenge," he says. But he leaves it to the Filipina's creativity to make the clothes look her age and reflect her personality. He cites an example: "An 18-year-old can wear a sheath sans accessories and maintain a youthful look. The same dress can be worn by a more mature woman with a blazer and pearls and make it look sophisticated. That's where you inject your personal creativity."

Simpler lifestyle, simpler designs

With 19 years of experience in RTW, and counting, Ocampo knows the business like the back of his hand. He knows what appeals to his market. But he is the first to admit his clothes did not use to be these simple. "My designs have evolved," he says. As he embraced a simpler lifestyle, his design sensibilities have followed suit. "I don't do baroque or avant-garde clothes [anymore], those with elaborate embellishments everywhere," he grimaces. "Life is complicated enough... I've become somewhat minimalist."

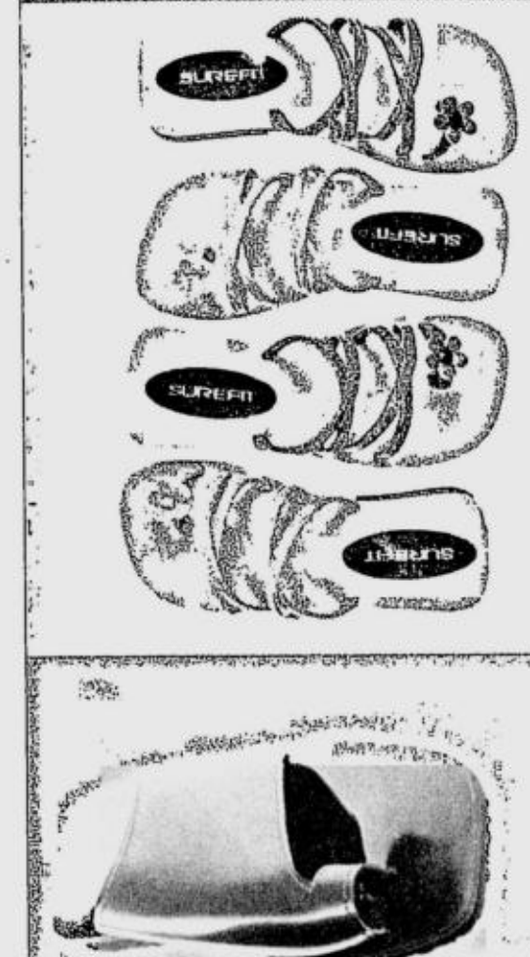
Since he started his line for SM in 1983, his following has remained steadfast. This should explain why Ocampo is hardly fazed by problems designers like him have to face.

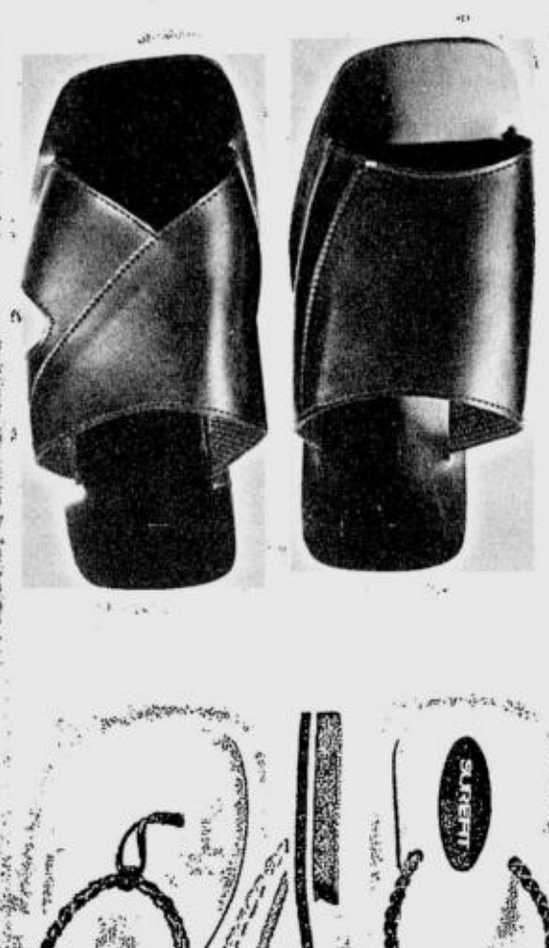
Sometimes, he says, there are pieces that don't take off "because, I later realize, they were made with, say, the wrong fabric. These are then sold at a discount." He's not bothered by the result of this practice, that someone's bound to purchase a dress that carries his name but with a "wrong" element. "You can't be worried about things like that all the time," Ocampo says. He instead focuses his energies on continuously finding ways to perfect his craft.

He says experience has also taught him to work within limitations. "When you work within the box, that's when creativity comes in," he explains. "It's the only thing that's sure in your life: you helping yourself."

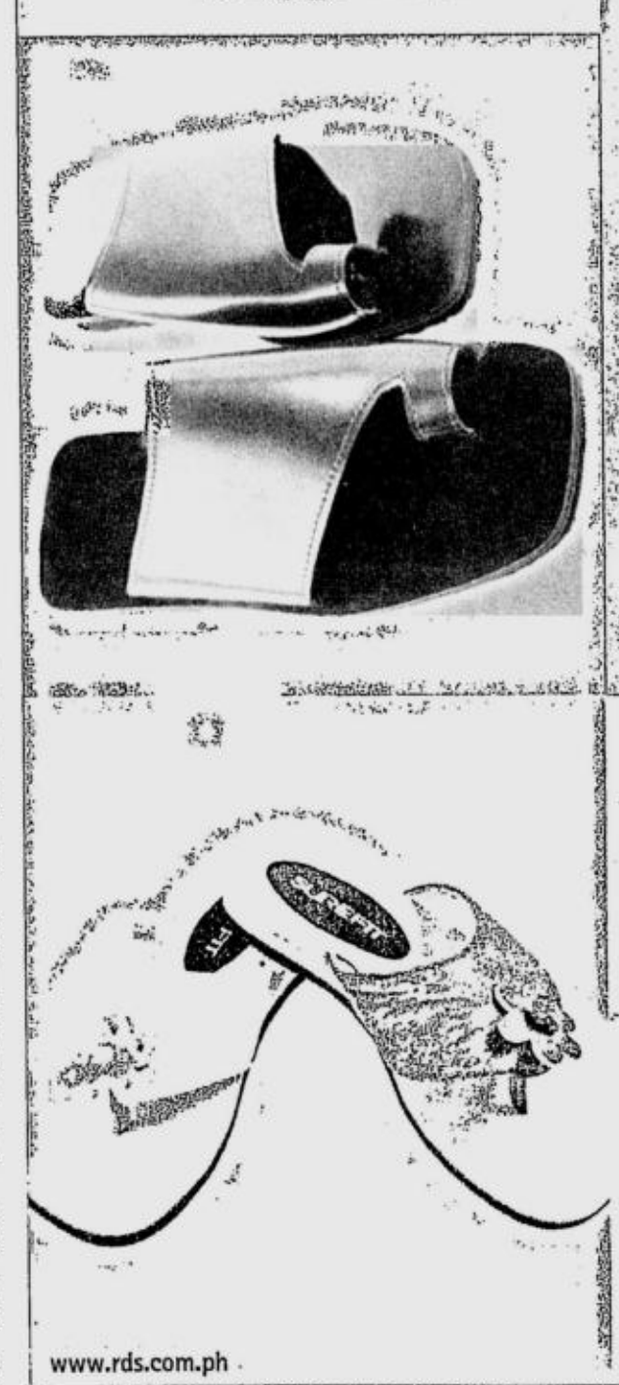
Luckily for the Filipino woman who appreciates his mission of lending ease in the midst of complexity, she always has Efren Ocampo to count on.

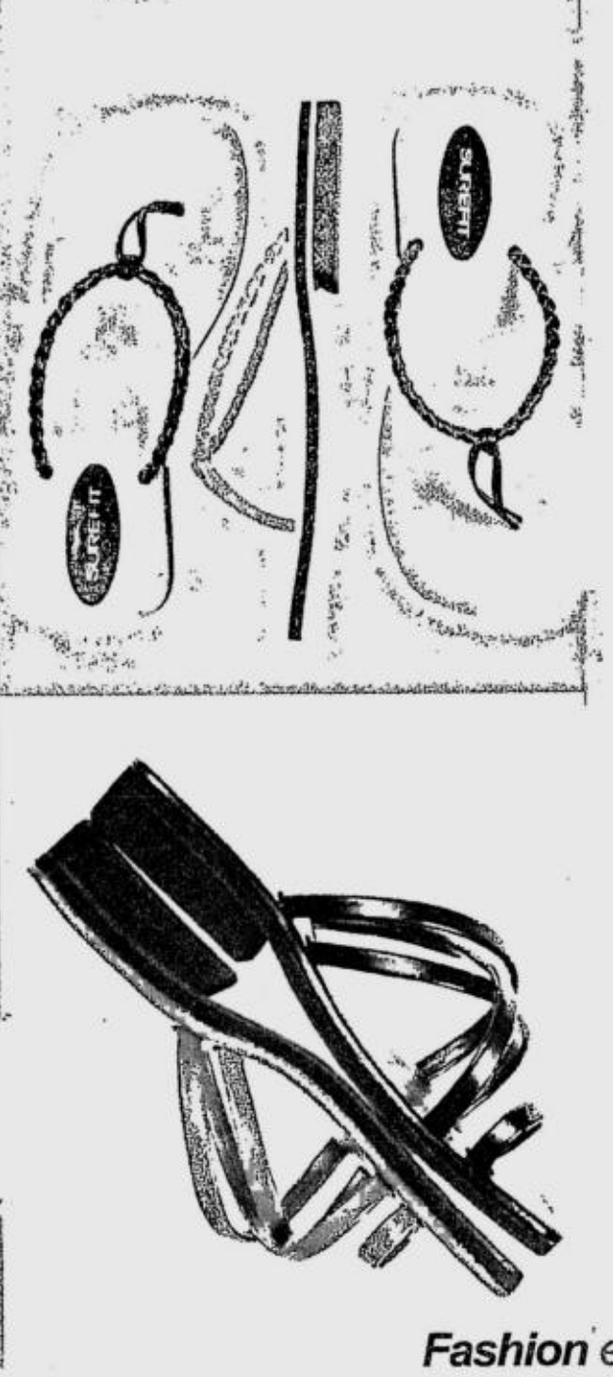
Robinsons Department Store





Step Into Style





www.rds.com.ph

Fashion everyday

Robinsons Galleria | Robinsons Place Manila, Novaliches, Imus, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo | Robinsons Metro East
Robinsons Starmills Pampanga | Tutuban Center | Starmall Shaw | Metropolis Star Alabang | Waltermart Sta. Rosa, Gen. Tr

Sa 1,000 stalls ng **Greenhills Mid-Year Bangketa Fair**, you'll surely

Get Duling from Morning to Evening.

Maduduling ka talaga sa dami ng mapapamili sa Greenhils Shopping Center, dahil from July 12 to August 12, 1,000 stalls ang tatambad sa iyo! Shop all you want from 10am to 8pm, and up to 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

Punta na sa Greenhills Mid-Year Bangketa Fair. Dali, bago ka mahipan ng hangin.

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER

Mag presents 'Sex & the City' women . . .

A PHOTO and fashion exhibit inspired by the leading ladies of the "Sex and the City" television series and its trend-setting style will open at the Power Plant on Aug. 12.

The "Sex and the City Photo Exhibit," a first-of-its-kind show, is being presented by HBO, Metro and Guide Magazines, in anticipation of the final episodes of the high-rating program.

It features Metro Magazine's take on the show's characters and distinct looks as interpreted by Jun de Leon, who is known for his revolutionary style.

Power Plant patrons can win tickets to an advance screening at the Power Plant Cinema of the last four episodes of the award-winning show, as well as various mall activities, with their purchases Aug. 10-11. They will also be able to participate in a grand raffle draw for a pair of round-trip tickets to New York.

TESSA Nieto (Charlotte), Diana Van Walsum (Carrie), Chrizel Agado (Miranda) and Annette Coronel (Samantha)

Special discounts will also be offered at the following participating Power Plant stores: Anne Klein, Calvin Klein, Episode, Guess, Jessica, Josie Natori, Kenneth Cole, Marks & Spencer, and Nine West.

Metro and Guide Magazines are headed by Ernie Lopez, president, ABS-CBN Publishing Inc., the publishing arm of ABS-CBN Broadcasting; and Thelma Sioson-San Juan, ABS-CBN Publishing general manager and Metro magazine editor in chief. The creative team for the exhibit was led by Metro magazine's managing editor, Carlo Tadiar. Associate fashion editor Ria de Borja and fashion assistant Melanie Cuevas did the styling.

This year, both HBO Asia and Guide Magazine are celebrating their 10th anniversaries.

. . . and the 40 most desired party people

METRO Magazine cruises the nightlife, covering Manila's hottest clubs, bars and restaurants on its August issue now out on the stands.

Manila's premiere lifestyle magazine throws the spotlight on the tribes that rule the night, zooming in on its denizens' customs. What is the scene like today? How far will today's scenesters go with money and sex? And are they all on drugs?

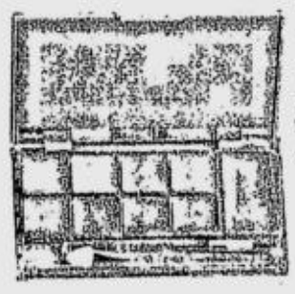
The 40 most desired party people get a Metro close-up. Whose are the bodies and faces that everyone is looking at while pretending not to? On the cover is one of these 40, Mylene Dizon—the TV bad girl who's so convincing the public mistakes her for her character. To round off the package is "Night Visions," a nightlife fashion story of styles that range from rock to glam lounge.

Complementing this is a whimsical fashion pictorial by cutting-edge photographers Claudine Sia and Neil Lucente featuring the work of cerebral clothes maker Melissa La'O. Also in this issue is one girl's story of overcoming bulimia. Now a fitness enthusiast, she tells of her rise from despair.

On a different note, Metro fitness columnist Tina Juan introduces us to the pelvic floor muscles, more easily grasped as the "orgasm muscles," and teaches us how to keep them fit.

Metro keeps it sizzling this August! Available at leading bookstores and newsstands. For subscription inquiries, call 631-9345.

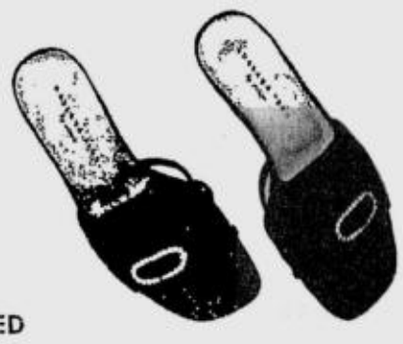
Fashion treats for women



THIS month, Cinderella offers women new cosmetic products, accessories that match with their wardrobe, bags to complement their style and their favorite brands of clothing at discounted prices.

On Aug. 15, 3:30 p.m., Cinderella presents an in-store fashion show in Cinderella Glorietta and on Aug. 31 at Cinderella SM Megamall. Featured brands are SYC, Naf Naf, Esprit, U2, Red Earth, In Focus, Ayessa, Beatrice, Britney, Design Avenue, Drezzee, Fashion Forward, GWS, In Style, Ivie, June, Maxi, Parfait, Pour Elle, Trends, Verve, Colours, Street Jeans, Harvard, Bum Girl, L'Oreal, Maybelline, Fashion 21, VMV, Max Factor, Amazing Crystal, Smaggol, Rossana Pena, Durante, Perrie, Moda Enrico.

THE PERFECT PALETTE. Swarovski brooches, Revlon and Max Factor nail polish, Maybelline Great Lash mascara and Red Earth lipstick compact



STAR-STUDDED AFFAIR. Black satin and lace shoes and bags with diamond-studded details and multistrand necklace

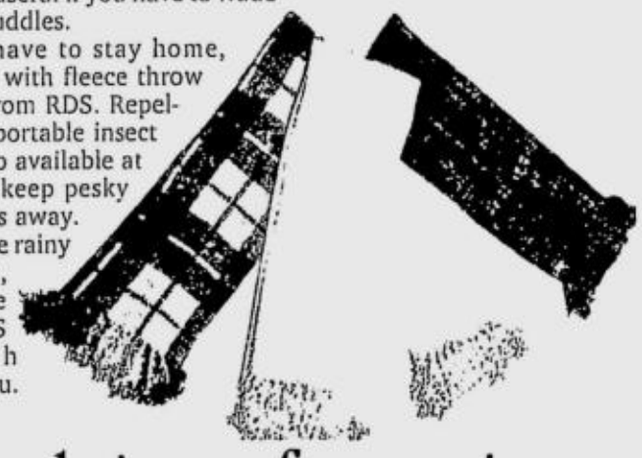
Right stuff for the rain

GET yourself geared for the rainy season from Robinsons Department Store's (RDS) extensive line of rainy day outfit and accessories.

Brave the storm with umbrellas in fun shades. Raincoats for kids feature colorful cartoon characters. Both boys and girls can opt for pastel colored fisherman's hats and assorted hooded jackets. Rubber slippers in attractive colors are useful if you have to wade through puddles.

If you have to stay home, keep snug with fleece throw blankets from RDS. Repellants and portable insect killers, also available at RDS, will keep pesky mosquitoes away.

For more rainy day items, visit the RDS branch nearest you.



Creative blues

WHEN it seems like your creativity has been neglected, revive your ideas and translate them into a denim bag form. At Cinderella, a grand cash prize awaits you if you land first place. Second and third place winners also get a prize.

Get your denim bag for P98 with a minimum purchase of P300 from any Cinderella branch. Choose your denim bag from the following brands: SYC, Naf Naf, Smaggol, Harvard, Bunny, Street Jeans. Anything goes! You can cut it, spray it, shrink it, or even sew it! Contest is ongoing until Sept. 8.

Be creative. Free your mind and the rest will follow.

SAMPLE dressed-up denim bag

Search is on for major mall's image models

THE ROBINSONS Malls will be conducting the search for Ms Robinsons starting Aug.15-Oct. 15, as announced by the Robinsons Malls' ad and promo director Eunice N. Gonzalez.

Co-presented by Seventeen Magazine and Palmolive Naturals Shampoo and Conditioner, this competition will be open to all single, female individuals 16-21 years old. Foreigners may also join but should have resided in the Philippines for at least two years. Interested parties may secure application forms and register at the ad and promo offices, complex administration offices and information counters of Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Place Imus, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños and Robinsons Star Mills Pampanga.

Screening will be on Oct. 25-26. Twelve finalists will be selected and will be presented to the public on Nov. 19 at the Amorsolo Ballroom of the Manila Galleria Suites. The top four winners will be selected: Ms Robinsons, and three runners-up. These winners will bring home P100,000 plus gift checks from Robinsons Department Store; trips to Cebu, courtesy of hotel accommodations from Cebu Midtown Hotel; trips to Cebu, courtesy of Cebu Pacific; Palmolive gift packs; gift checks from Jesi Mendez, plus many more.

Call 632-7672, 633-7641 to 90 local 175 or 176.

Give your hair extra gloss

L'OREAL Professionnel introduces Diacolor Richesse with softening, smoothening ingredients that make your hair softer and shinier than ever before, while bringing your natural color to the next level.

It's the best choice for women who want to color their hair but have just had it bonded, permed or straightened—or who simply want to give their hair extra gloss with a hint of color.

Choose from 22 new L'Oreal Diacolor Richesse shades to match every shade of hair.

Scents of femininity

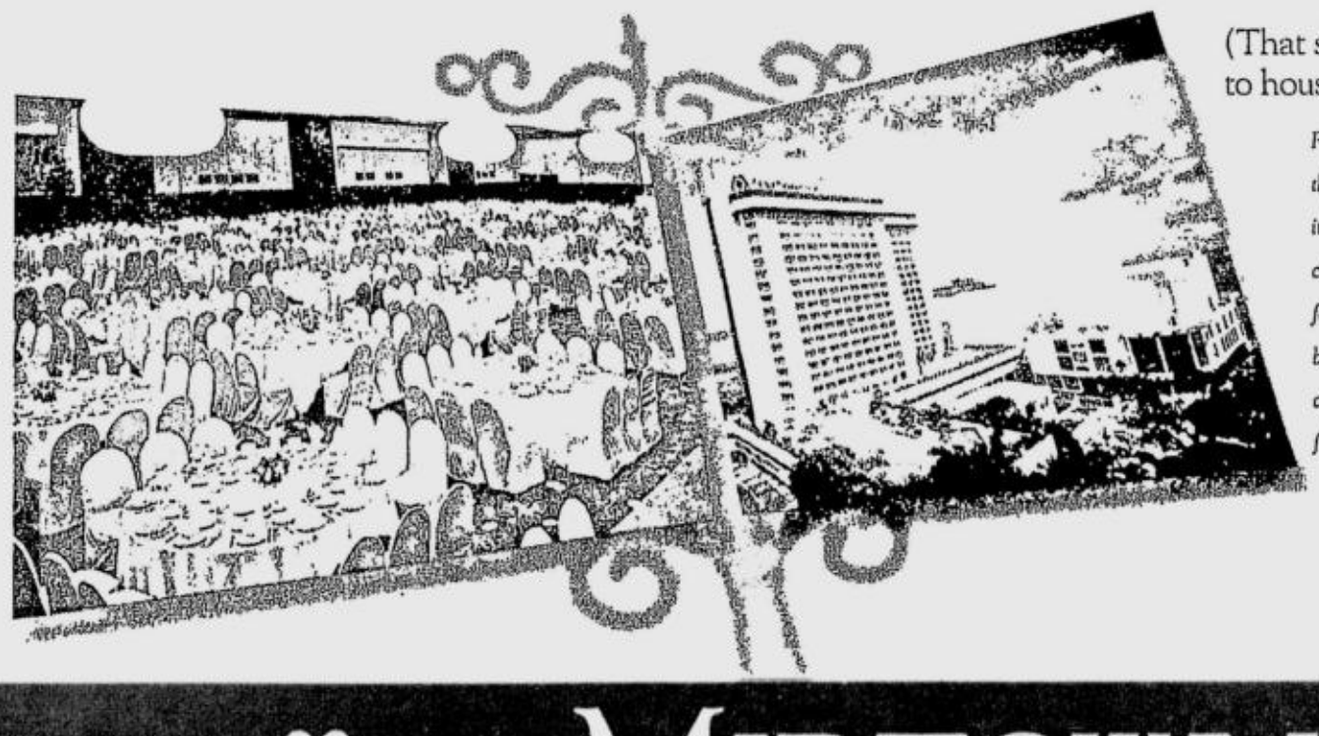
THE GREENHOUSE effect is the best way to describe the new Diptyque and Creed fragrances.

Diptyque scents blend flowers and herbs. A musky feminine fragrance, this is a scent with style. Creed, on the other hand, offers a scent of femininity.

Available at Momento, 2/F Glorietta 4, facing Cibo.

SCENTS by Diptyque and scented candle

Our grand ballroom is big enough to house the competition's.



(That should make it *big enough* to house your *conventions*.)

Presenting the pride of The Manila Midtown Hotel: the Grand Ballroom. Among our pillarless ballrooms, it is peerless: at 2,120 square meters, it is the country's largest, able to accommodate 2,300 people for sitdown functions and 3,000 for cocktails. It is but one of ten rooms that we offer for meetings, conventions, weddings, proms, debuts, and other functions.

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All you need, All in the heart of the City.

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AUG '02

OXYGEN

www.oxygenfm.com

Pnoys take 2 txt msg lyk hors 2 H20

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

WE'VE come a long way, baby. Not so long ago, cellular phones were as big as and heavier than shoe boxes. They also cost more than 25-inch color television sets. With their antennae sticking out on one side, they resembled Japanese anime monsters.

Thank technology for the breakneck speed at which the instruments diminished in size and weight. Some new models are just a little bigger than a business or credit card. They also boast of all kinds of features, the latest of which are digital cameras. Pretty soon, the instruments will allow e-mail and the downloading of MP3 music.

Moreover, what was once considered a luxury item has become a necessity.

Equalizer

It is no longer a question of whether one owns a cell phone or not but rather what model a person has. Even grade school pupils and their *yayas* have their own phones. This is because of the prepaid card plans and the oversupply of units.

Somehow, cell phones have become an equalizer. Regardless of a person's social and economic station—whether he lives in an exclusive fortress protected by uniformed security guards or a hovel in a flood-prone area—he owns a cell phone.

With this development came the phenomenon of SMS (Short Message Service)—better known as "texting." The pager or beeper suddenly went the way of the dinosaurs with the advent of text messages. Now you do not get misspelled messages because the pager operator is either hard of hearing or simply could not distinguish vowels from consonants. With text messages, blame for the violations of English and Filipino language rules lies squarely with the sender.

New language

But sending text messages is more practical. It is cheaper and lets one to be either unforgivably cute or abrasive. Just as the Internet chat room craze completely violated every lesson learned from grade school about how to spell words or to create shortcuts and contractions, an entirely different language emerged from all the nimble fingers punching away on the keyboards of handphones.

For some strange reason, Filipinos have become among the most avid "texters" in the world. Messages are created, sent, forwarded and regurgitated by the millions every day. There must be something in our genetics that inspires such passion for sending and swapping all kinds of information—getting our daily high from letting our fingers dance on the keyboard then pressing the Send button. Perhaps this has also something to do with our insatiable appetite not only to communicate but also to yak and indulge in the delicious art of gossip. Or maybe this is a manifestation of our ability to cope with national boredom, designing ways and means to amuse ourselves.

There is nothing wrong with texting or receiving text messages but a person's need to bond with another or to relieve his ennui can sometimes get on the nerve.

The sound of a handphone announcing a message is as charming as the legendary Chinese water torture. Despite all warnings (including threats of lynching or being shot with a .45 right between the eyes) that cell phones should be turned off or put on mute or silent mode inside movie houses, churches, funeral parlors and motel rooms in Pasig, there are always those who defy the rules just to be contrary. Someone will always want to have his way, unmindful of the moans, groans, glares and stares from people around him.

Perhaps this has something to do with our insatiable appetite not only to communicate but also to indulge in the delicious art of gossip

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Intriguing

There is a whole range of text messages one can receive from sources known and unknown. A text message from an unknown source either intrigues you or makes you feel violated. Some people think it's cute to throw you a line or two—whether charming or disarming—that they think will keep you sleepless as you try to figure out what species took the time to send sweet nothings.

But you feel violated on receiving deliberately cruel, uncreative and malicious notes meant to ruin anything from a single moment to an entire day. Such acts of cowardice indicate the bitterness or newfound levels of stupidity of the sender. Only someone sick of mind and with small balls would insult a person and hide behind the anonymity of technology. The recipient could either send back an equally vicious reply (hopefully more creative and abrasive—but definitely indicative of ill-calculated *pagpatol*) or simply ignore the message—then light black candles outside the Quiapo Church in some cosmological act of getting even.

But what can be so particularly disgusting is getting forwarded messages. A person can tolerate only so many text jokes (the volumes of text jokes anthologies published will soon challenge the length of "Mahabharata").

Even more repulsive are simulated picture messages usually accompanying poor attempts at punch lines with very carefully designed images of sex organs, copulation positions and other forms of biological activities. One begins to wonder what sort of genius and how much patience it takes to design the picture messages to flaunt crassness in the mistaken notion it is amusing. Try figuring out how much time was spent to design a penis using the handphone keyboard, especially those that due to some unexplained animation function in your phone, and you come up with only two possible conclusions. Either the sender dedicated chunks of his conscious hours in a form of pathetic sublimation to make up for a really terrible sex life—or he is just textbook sick.

Killer messages

Worse than those inutile or green jokes are ultra-sweet messages that can kill a diabetic in two seconds flat. The little reminders of how important you are as friend, lover or object of obsession are as sincere as bargain greeting cards. They lose any real significance when you think of how the vows of eternal loyalty, servitude and unconditional love have also been sent to around 20,000 others. The text message reassurances are as juicy as gum chewed for more than 24 hours or as stimulating as having phone sex with someone with terminal lisping. The messages all sound like they were ripped off from bad TV soap opera scripts or hackneyed romance films.

No one is spared from the most unique kind of messages—Bible quotations, inspirational lines and assurances that Jesus loves humankind so you better do some soul-searching. Receiving the messages can be quite awkward, especially when you are doing very un-spiritual activities involving one or more of the seven deadly sins.

For someone indulging in creative foreplay, getting the text messages is like being doused with cold water. I have a friend who has made it her mission to send me at least two Bible quotations at night—something like a digital "Our Daily Bread". I feel like she has this image of my soul ending up like a Kenny Rogers roast for all eternity.

The cell phone has become an extension of human anatomy. Whether or not constant use of the instrument results in large doses of radiation does not really matter. As fingers dance on the keyboard and bouquets of nonsense are exchanged as text messages, all we really care about is being connected to one another.

Charity auction marks architecture and design mag's 3rd year

NATIONAL Artist Arturo Luz

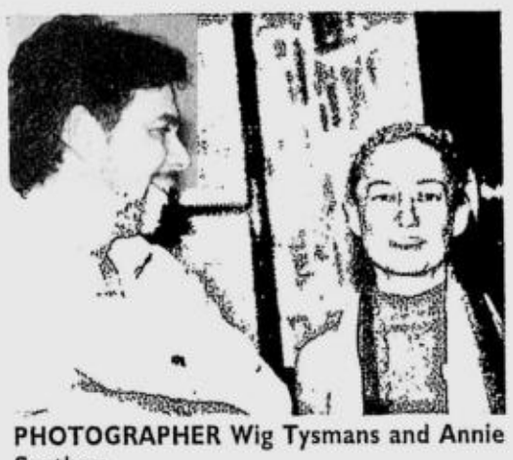
GEMMA Cruz Araneta

MIA Villanueva

BLUPRINT, the arts and design magazine, celebrated its third year with an art and furniture charity auction dubbed "BluPrint Going Thrice: Bid for Art and Design" at the LKG Tower on Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Over 40 paintings of renowned artists like Mauro Malang, BenCab, Arturo Luz, Ang Kiukok, Lao Lianben, Lilia Cruz Lao, Gus Albor, Impy Pilapil, Napoleon Abueva and Norberto Carating were offered.

Others who donated their works to the auction included Bernard Pacquing, Rock Drilon, Bobby Nuestro, Rachy Cuna, Soler Santos, Lexigius Calip, Ivan Acuna, Joseph Lofranco, John Frank Sabado, Edgar Talusan-Fernandez, Joel Paraiso, Elmer Borlongan, Mark Justiniani, Riel Hilario, Mariko Jacinto, Kiko and Fernando Escora, Neil Manalo, Ged Alangui and Eugene Jarque.



PHOTOGRAPHER Wig Tysmans and Annie Sarthou

RACHY Cuna and Alice Streegan-Cruz

BLUPRINT editor in chief Tina Bonoan with architech Conrad Onglao

Also auctioned off were works by Juan Alcazaren, Francisco Viri, Tony Leaño, Ferdie Montemayor, Nonoy Alcalde, Popo San Pascual, Trek Valdizno, Mario de Rivera, Andy Orencio, Jim Orencio, Erwin Leaño, Valeria Cavestany, Honrado Fernandez and Zaldy Jumawan.

Furniture pieces were donated by Claude Tayag, Benji Reyes, Budji Layug, Ramon Castellanos, Carlo Tanseco and the Movement 8 regulars—Renato Vidal, Carlo Cordaro, Clayton Tugonon, Kenneth Cobonpue, Tes Pasola, Tony Gonzales and Ann Pamintuan.

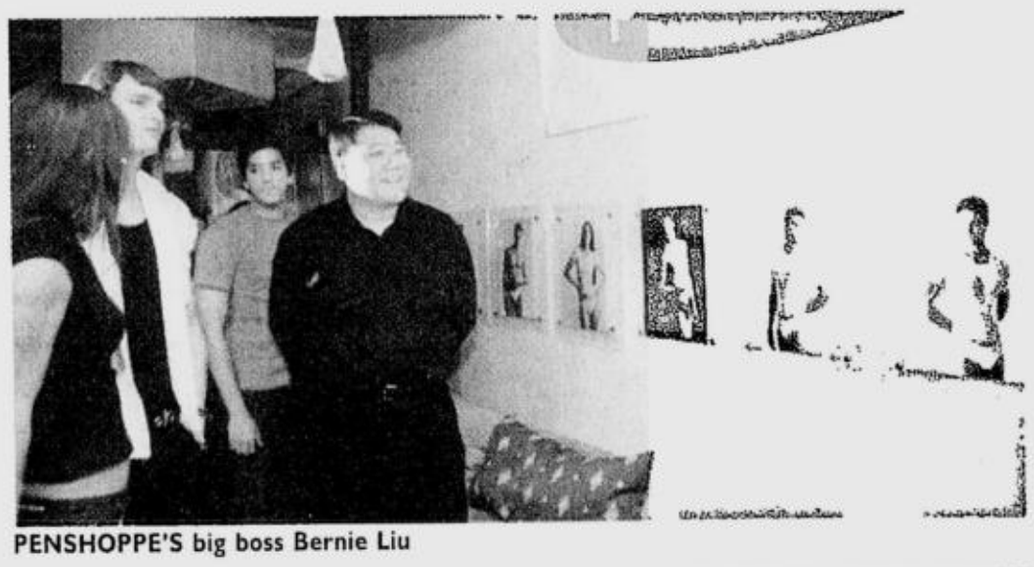
Cebu artists Debbie Palao, Luisa Robinson and Rene Ybañez also participated, as well as Enrique Murio, Roland Laurena, Ugu Bigyan, Ricky Baylosis, Ina Gaston, Jun Delingon, Ad Colle and Bernie Sason.

Present at the auction were Johnny Hubilla, Roland Lauren, Willie Magcase, Leo Almeria, Gerry Contreras, Conrad Onglao, Anna Sy, Gemma Cruz Araneta, Alice Streegan-Cruz, Audrey Shih, Gigi Gonzales, Ricky Dee, Tony Escaño, Mia Villanueva, Wig Tysmans, Annie Sarthou, Joel Paraiso, Tina Fernandez, Leeanne Legasto, Lea Disini, Joy Basilio, Minotte Cuenca, Aida Marshall, Ana Sy, Jones Lanza, Sean Reyes, Grayham Brysland, Dale de la Cruz, Wilma Palafox, Mon Paterno, among other special guests. The show was hosted by FWD editor in chief TJ Manotoc and "F" host Daphne Oseña.

The auction benefited the Philippine Business for Social Progress, a private nonprofit foundation promoting the business sector's commitment to social development.

BluPrint is published monthly by Mega Magazines and Publications Inc. and is available at newsstands at P250 a copy. Call 631-2859 or 633-4785.

GERRY Contreras, Mr. and Ms Johnny Hubilla and Roland Laurena



PENSHOPPE'S big boss Bernie Liu

Party showcases underwear line

PENSHOPPE hosted recently one of the year's hottest parties at Rock Star in Libis, QC, to showcase its line of comfortable underwear, like the PJR Innerwear for Ladies and PYM Innerwear for Men.

Penshoppe endorsers Jonathan Kovac and Edith Werbel were present for the unveiling of the latest Innerwear collection. Each item in the collection was designed for maximum comfort, while remaining stylish to complement current fashion trends.

Penshoppe underwear uses 100-percent pure combed cotton and other materials like Lycra for all-day confidence and comfort. The PJR Innerwear collection includes the signature thongs, low-rise thongs (perfect for low-riding jeans), string bikinis, hi-leg bikinis and bikini briefs. It also has enhancer bras, sports bras, underwire bras and tank tops.

The PYM Innerwear collection for men features boxer briefs, tanga briefs, low-rise sports hipster briefs, supporter briefs and tank tops.

The Rock Star party was attended by Penshoppe's top management: president/CEO Bernie Liu, marketing SVP Albert Ong, store operations VP Dino Sagun, marketing manager Gigi Tibi and merchandising managers Daisy Go and Chim See-Lua. Saatchi's account manager Marvi Agbulos and associate creative director Vic Acedillo were also present.

HANS Montenegro with PJR Innerwear for Ladies image model Edith Werbel

AUSTRALIAN hunk Jonathan Kovac, PYM Innerwear for Men image model

Vina Morales sang while Victor Neri played the drums. Angela Velez did a sexy number. Other stars at the party were Rock Star owners Troy and KC Montero and Bernard Palanca. Concert queen Pops Fernandez, Albert Martinez, a pregnant Dyan Castillejo, Jojie Dingcong and Pineapple's Anton Barretto and Leah Puyat also dropped in.

Check out the latest Penshoppe products at the nearest Penshoppe store or visit www.penshoppe.com.

TROY Montero and Samantha Lopez

PENSHOPPE Innerwear exhibit

She thinks that all men are heartbreakers

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

When I was 18, I entered into a relationship and promised to love my boyfriend more than my family and myself. I was happy, despite the times I had to cry because of problems. They say love is like that—you have to laugh and you have to cry.

However, after 1 ½ years, our love ended. He got drunk and wanted to talk to me, but I did not want to talk to him. We met the next morning, but avoided each other. I waited for another two months; he never came to talk to me again.

I decided I should not make the first move and, now, after 2 ½ years, the pain is still with me. A lot of boys have courted me but I just ignore them. I hope that, someday, my former boyfriend and I can be together again.

Please tell me what to do. I'm so afraid to love again. I always think that all men are heartbreakers.

ALMIDA
Davao City

Not all men are heartbreakers. Some of them even suffer from broken hearts, losing the girls they love to other men.

For everything there is always a reason. You just started that he got drunk and wanted to talk to you. It could be that something came up in his life that he had difficulty facing, and he wanted to explain it to you. The next morning, he was already sober, which was probably why he avoided you. Since you had also avoided him, he concluded that revealing to you the reason why he got drunk would just end everything.

Face the facts in your relationship. He never talked to you again. Love for you was no longer in his heart.

You have your life to live; live from moment to moment while focusing on what you have to do. Erase from your mind that promise you made to yourself that you would love him above everyone else. Clear your mind and forget the past.

You ask what you should do now; you say you are afraid to love again. My advice is to think positive. Forget your fears. If a young man starts being friendly to you, treat him as a friend. Friendship, as they say, is the best soil where the seed of love can germinate.

It has been 2 ½ years now, as you said. Time heals all wounds. Love yourself, for a change; turn to the power of your mind so that you face each day with greater strength and more wisdom. Let go of the past.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Chinese acrobats perform in Alabang

ALABANG Town Center stages "Chinese Acrobats" on Aug. 9-11 at the mall's activity center. The Changchun Acrobatic Troupe has performed over 3,000 shows in more than 20 countries including the US, Germany, Russia and Canada, and has won more than 10 gold medals in international and domestic acrobatic competitions in Paris, Monte Carlo and Wuqiao. The "Chinese Acrobats" shows are scheduled to perform at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

CONFERENCE. The Philippine Retailers Association holds the 11th National Retailers Conference and Stores Asia 2002 Expo until today at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Call 687-4985/4181/80 or 636-0825.

PERFORMANCE. The Ateneo de Manila University's Filipino Department celebrates Buwan ng Wika with "Kalawakan": A Poetry Jamming. In line with this year's theme, Kalawakan features cultural presentations, live band performances, and open-mic poetry reading. Kalawakan will be held at the Ateneo's Rizal Mini Theater today, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Entrance is free.

LECTURE. Amy Cavosora will hold a lecture on psycho-spiritual teaching with the theme "Introduction to the Course and its Thought System" on Aug. 11, 1:30-5 p.m. at Sterten Place, Teacher's Village, Quezon City. Call 925-2795, (0917) 608-9625.

SEARCH. IAyala subsidiary TalentWorks Asia (TWAsia) has an ongoing talent search at Glorietta, Ayala Center. The search ends on Aug. 11. Aspiring commercial models, singer, actors, musicians, bands, performance groups, professional athletes and writers can visit the company's Glorietta recruitment booth (near Gift Gate and Regatta) to learn more about how TWAsia can help develop their careers.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK. Miriam College will celebrate Ecology Week on Aug. 12-17 with the theme "Towards More Participation in Sustainable Development." Call 927-2421 to 27 local 348.

KIDDIE FAIR. Themes & Motifs presents "Babies and Kids' Fair" on Aug 17-18, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at the North Court, Power Plant in Rockwell, Makati City. Call 371-9783 / 410-0032 or visit www.babiesukidsfair.com.

GOINGS-ON

DAVAO BOOKFAIR. The Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Profession will hold the 5th Davao book fair on Aug. 13-16 at the Apo View Hotel, Davao City. This year's theme is "Books: Keys to Creativity and Development." Call 927-9858 or 926-4708; fax 435-5727; cell nos. (0919) 239-9464, (0917) 248-3733 and (0917) 348-0292 or email virge@uplink.com.ph. Or Davao secretariat at (082) 227-0941 or 0916-3458877.

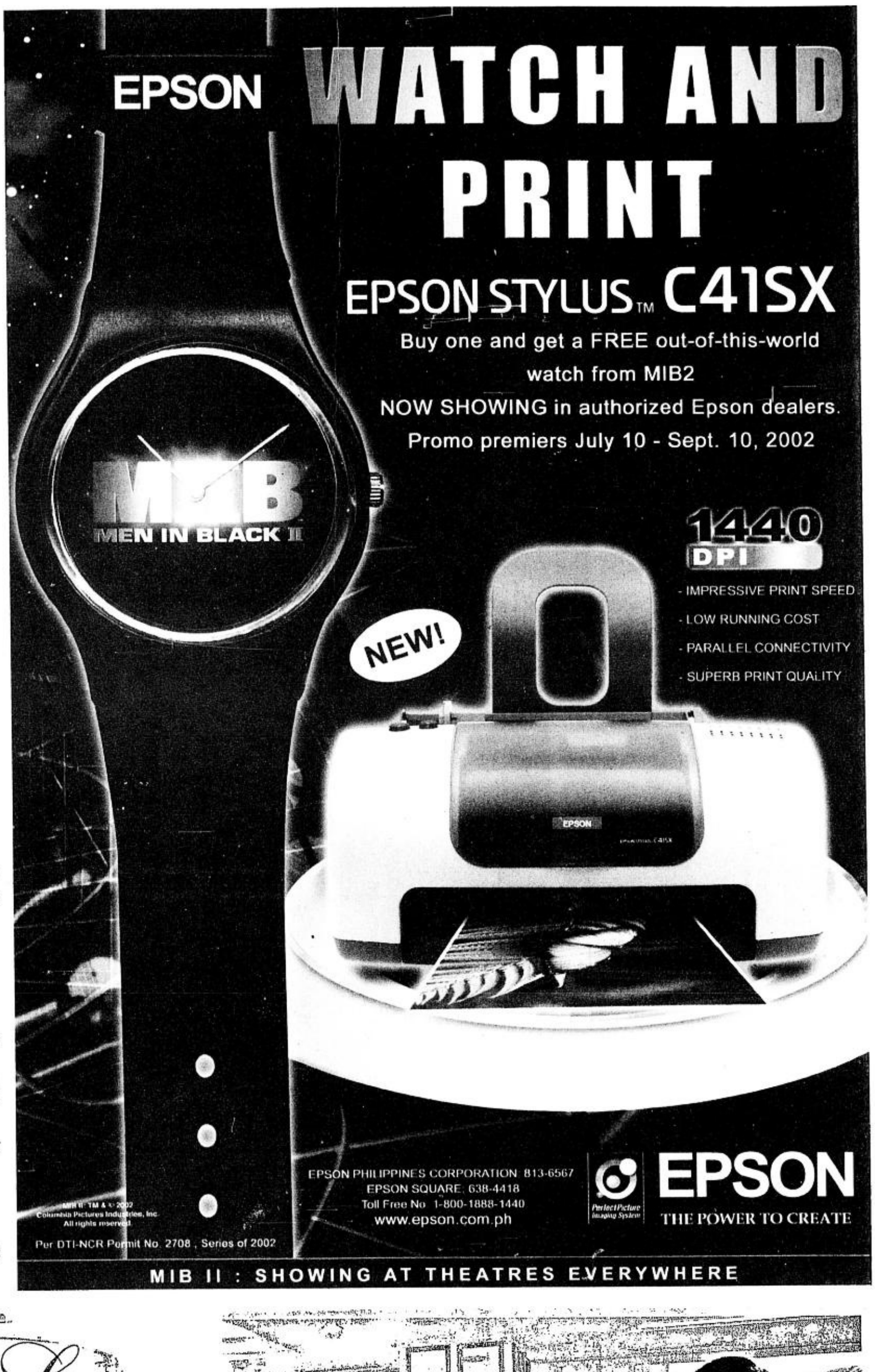
PET FESTIVAL. Lipa City is holding its 55th founding anniversary on Aug. 30. One of the highlights of this year's celebration is the pet festival, a fun parade-cum-contest of pets in their best attire with their owners. The Foundation Day Executive Committee expects at least a hundred entries with cats, dogs, birds, rodents, and even exotic reptiles topping the list. Aimed at promoting responsible pet ownership and enhancing Filipino creativity and ingenuity, the contest will give P74,000 worth of prizes to the owner-pet look-alike winner, cutest, most unique, best dressed pet and most responsible pet owner. Free registration is open until Aug. 15. Call (043) 756-1962, 756-7838, 312-0359 and 981-3414.

ANTI-POLLUTION. The Concerned Citizens Against Pollution has formally launched its latest program to increase awareness for R.A. 9003, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and the need for the public to recycle. The competition will involve students from different colleges and universities. The contest and exhibit will be held at the Alabang Town Center on Aug. 24-29. Call 633-7198.

REVIEW CLASSES. The Philippine Association of Teachers of Library Science will conduct review classes in preparation for the licensure examination, for librarians, which will be given on Nov. 18-19. Classes are being held at the UST Graduate School, España, Manila until Oct. 13, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 731-3034/ 3101 local 8343.

ALUMNI HOMECOMING. The UP Chemical Engineering Alumni Foundation will hold its 49th anniversary celebration this month. The UP Chemical Engineering department-Diliman Campus, together with the UP Chemical Engineering Society, will also celebrate its annual Chemical Engineering Week on Aug. 26-30. The homecoming activity will be held at the Le Pavillion Metropolitan Park, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City on Aug. 31, 7 p.m. Call 434-3648 or telefax 927-1745.

SHOP OPENING. Avid Sales Corporation recently opened its sixth Avid Sony Shop at the new Greenbelt 3 Mall. The new Avid Sony Shop is one of the retail concept stores under the Avid group, which has 18 outlets in Metro Manila and Cebu. The shop offers Sony products like color television, home theater systems, Handycam, digital cameras and portable electronics. Products exclusively available at all Avid Sony Shops are also offered at the Greenbelt 3 branch. Call 757-4026 to 28.



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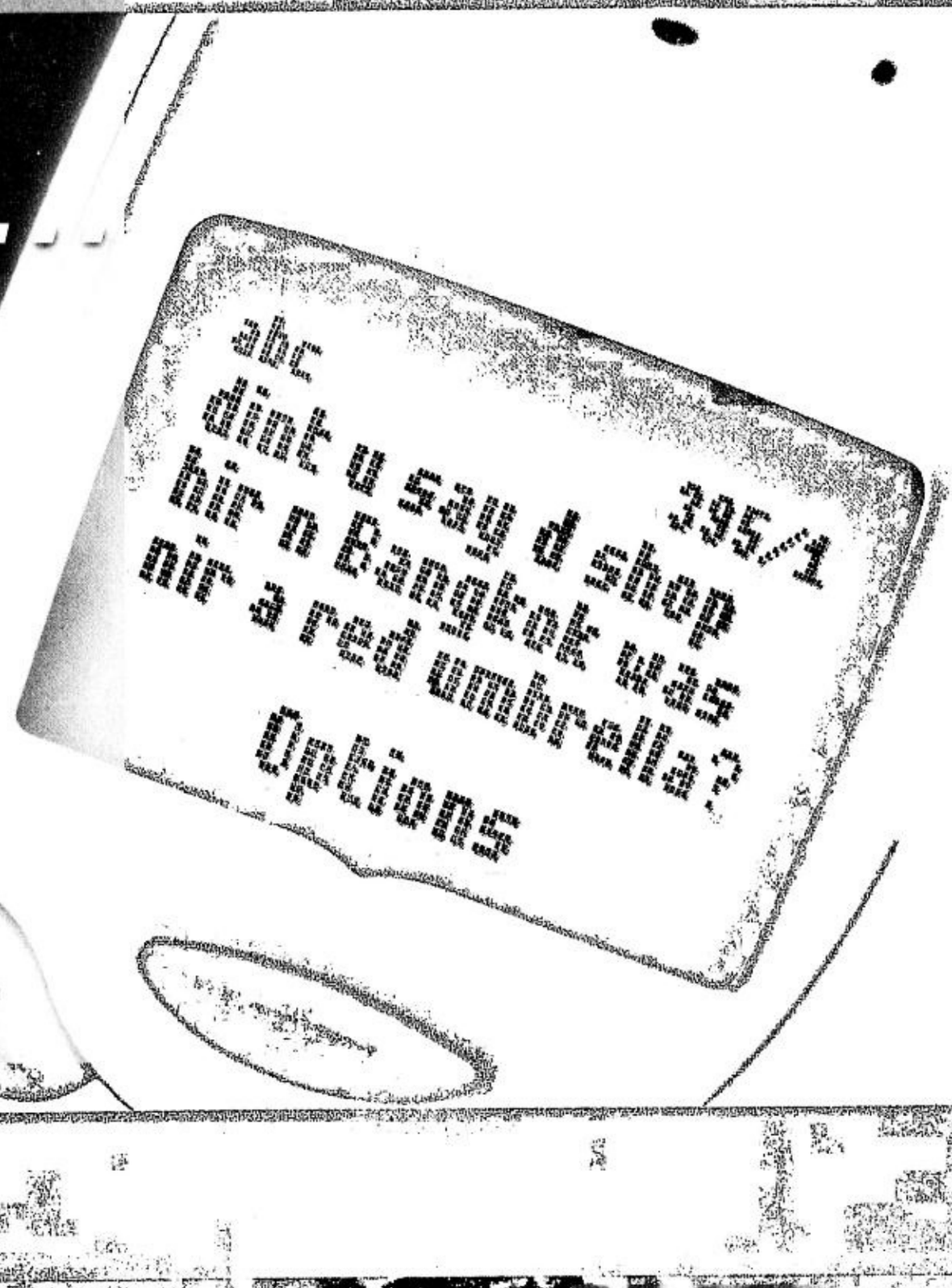

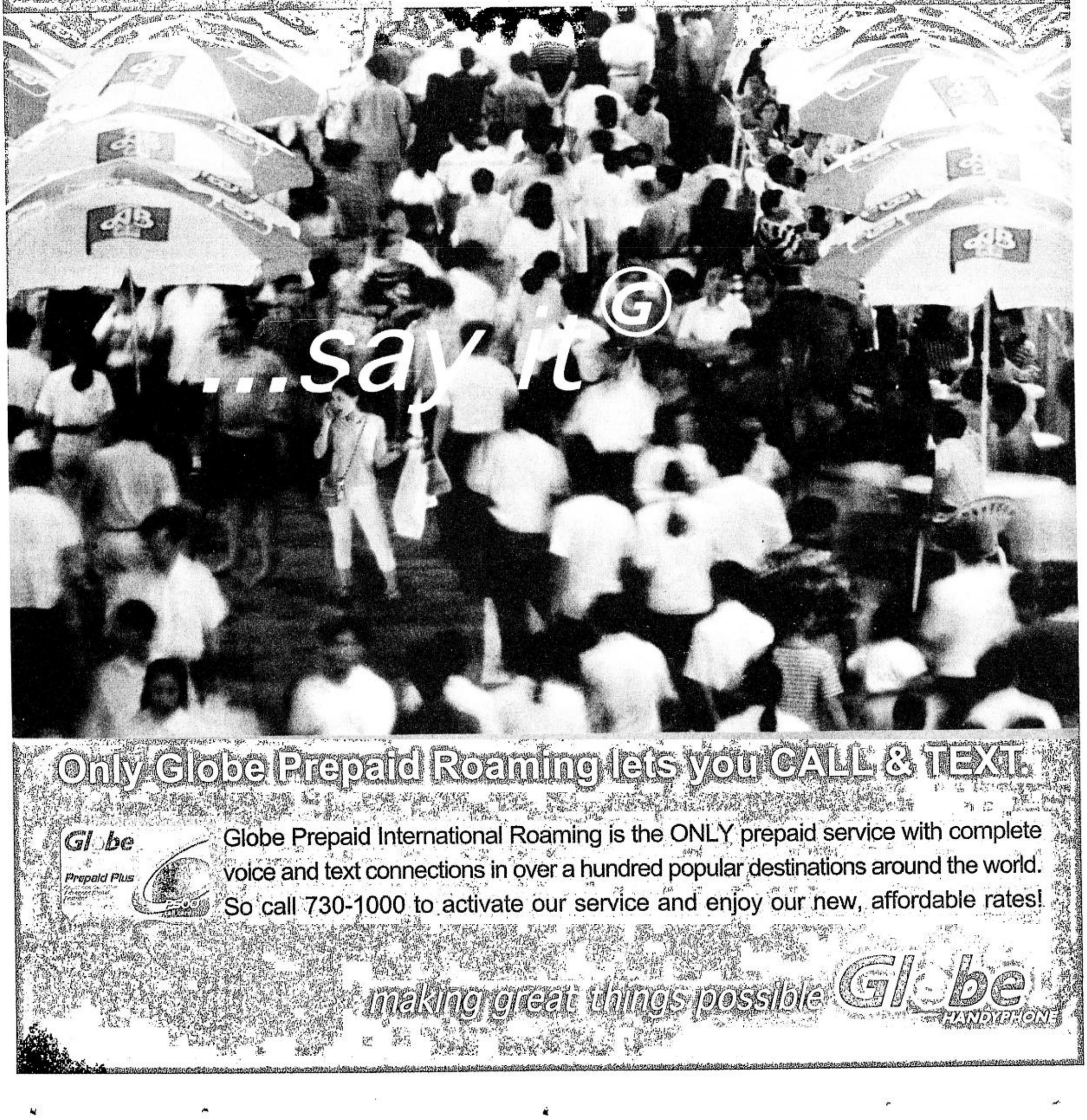

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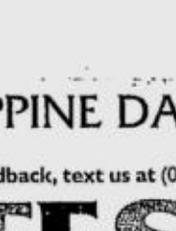
LIFESTYLE

trend nothin'

The night I got locked-in in today's chic-est hive

We were going to call it an early evening, or so I thought. But then Mercury must have been 'in retrograde'



LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

IT WAS one of those days that Élan editor **Marge Enriquez** (who had her annual dance concert last night, by the way) would call "Mercury is in retrograde." I can't define that as well as Marge. I just know it's something like, when your values and intentions are aligned but the planets aren't. In layman's terms—a bad-hair day.

Heeding Foreign Affairs executive director/culture writer **Virgil Reyes'** texted invite, we attended Makati Cinemanila's opening Thursday night. The lure wasn't so much **Mayor Binay** as the chance to see "Heaven," the International Film Festival opener..

The crowd at Greenbelt's Onstage was a thick broth for a rainy night—ambassadors, other diplomats, *culturati* (including **Bal Endriga, Gloria Angara, Mita Rufino**, not sharing a square-meter space, of course), show biz stalwarts and politicians. Not exactly your promise of a chill-out night.

But then, as we sat through the drum roll, the parade of colors, we thought sitting further through speeches and awards might not be such a bad idea. It should be a healthy change from fashionista-watching to star-gazing—the likes of **Mona Lisa, Susan Roces** (still looking prim and proper in black tailored separates, no matter her figure), **Rio Locsin** (her glasses, long-sleeved shirt and loose pants a good catalogue away from her "bold" image), **Vic Vargas** (so that's how he looks past middle age), **Bembol Roco** and other **Lino Brocka** stars.

Then came the first irony of the evening: Rep. **Imee Marcos** was emceeing with Rep. **Butz Aquino**—two (former) mortal enemies in contemporary history, but now acting like bosom buddies. My seatmate hissed: "Didn't

THE NIGHT/ p.E2

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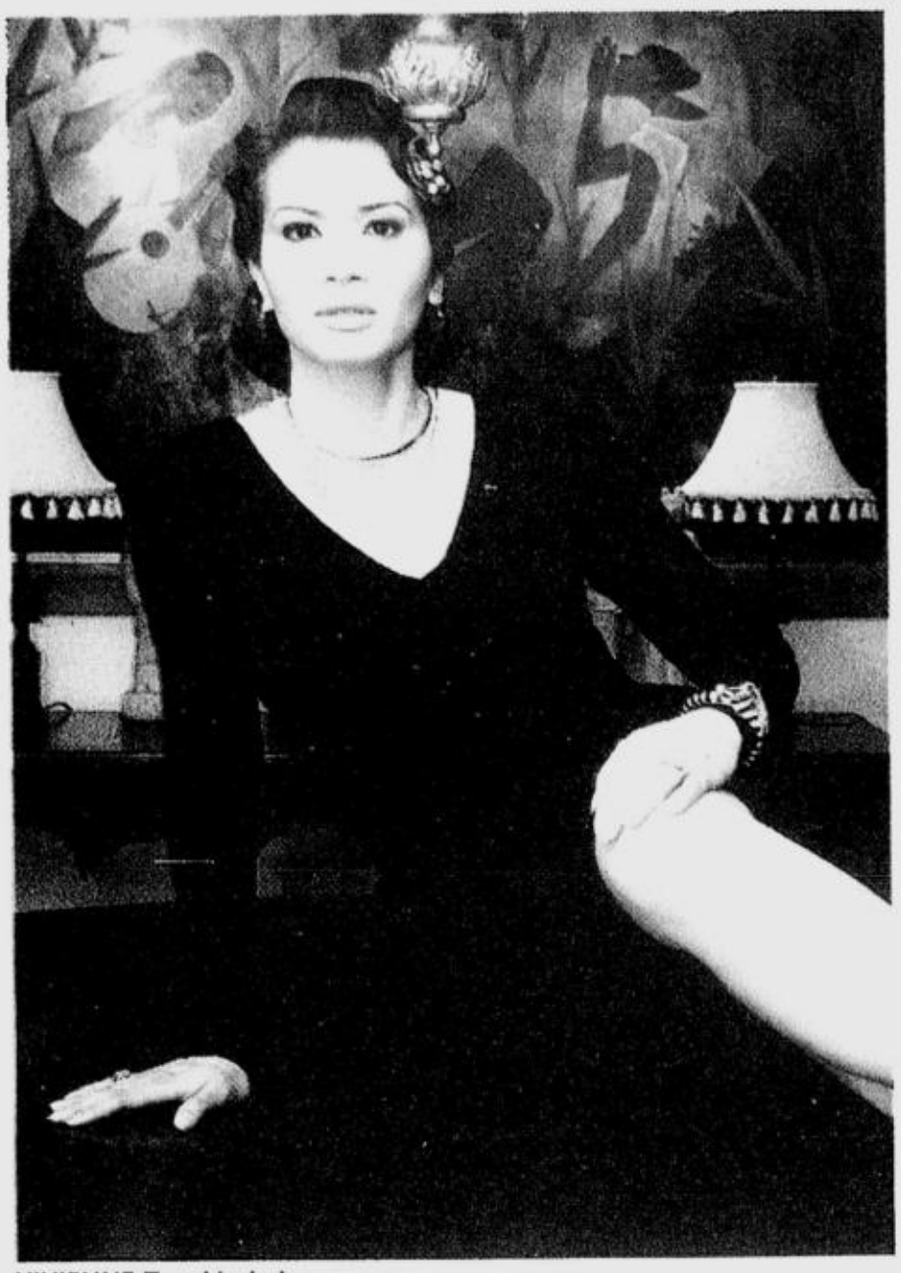


VIVIENNE Tam black dress

Zsa Zsa Padilla has an almost sixth sense when it comes to picking out clothes

VIVIENNE Tam beige blouse, Tracy Reese floral skirt and Kate Spade beige slippers

This diva was born to shop

MAX Studio cardigans and Poleci inner lace blouse

MAKEUP BY ERIC MANINGAT

CLOTHES AVAILABLE AT MIX BOUTIQUE, GREENBELT MALL MAKATI

"I KNOW what I want, when I see it. I don't understand why it takes Dolphy so long (to shop)!" says Zsa Zsa Padilla.

Aside from being decisive with her buys, Zsa Zsa also has the knack for getting the perfect size and fit—without trying anything on at the shop. She hates in-store fittings, so her almost sixth sense when it comes to clothes definitely comes in handy. Another useful buying skill she has? "I can stick to a budget. I can be a personal shopper," she quips.

What exactly does the Divine Diva like to shop for? "Shoes."

Tante Flores, manager of Mix Boutique, one of Zsa Zsa's favorite stores, agrees. "She likes high heels," particularly the open-toed ones."

Though Zsa Zsa usually prefers shopping abroad for shoes (her size is difficult to find locally), she does get a good selection from the boutique because they set aside some pairs for her. "They send the shoes over and I just pick what I like and send back the rest," says Zsa Zsa. "They carry my favorite brands at Mix, like Vivienne Tam, Max Studio, Tracy Reese and Poleci."

Zsa Zsa's on-cam look for her TV hosting stints is radically different from what she prefers to wear and buy for her own personal time.

Colors in her palette range across the spectrum, but she likes sticking to the classic whites and blacks. These days, she prefers wearing jeans and polo shirts, maybe a T-shirt once in a while, a jacket—clothes that are, in her own words, "more comfortable and conservative."

But that doesn't mean that she looks any less beautiful or fashionable.

"T" INNER long sleeves, Trina Turk sleeveless knits, Poleci white pants and Kate Spade shoes

The night I got locked-in in today's chic-est hive

From page E1

his brother get killed by you know who and you know when?" Obviously that's clearly ancient history, for tonight.

Imee was wearing a drop-dead-glam silk taffeta fuchsia gown, with the right glitter on the brooch and an even better, blinding flash on the ears (but, of course), and Butz was wearing, uh, his loose tongue.

Both knew how to perk up the audience. They reminisced about the past, their parallel lives in the movie industry as actor and actress/patroness, and so on and so forth, without straying an inch into Ninoy. Ah, such social graces.

Aside from **Tikoy Aguiluz**, whose brainchild Cinemanila was, it was Education Secretary **Raul Roco** who gave an insightful and inspiring talk about the Filipino and the movie industry. The man—who, surveys say, could be President but you know, won't, because surveys don't convert to cash—reminisced how he and some people plodded on to produce Brocka's award-winning films such as "Tinimbang..." during the '70s Martial Law, a fact we didn't know until then.

(Philippine movies are a dynamic part of Filipino culture, with a track record easily comparable, if not better, than their regional counterparts. Today, however, Chinese, Korean, Thai and even HK movies are breaking into the mainstream world market. It'll be a pity if our movie industry misses the bandwagon.)

The ceremonies over, we checked out the turnout for "Heaven," but were scared away by the long queue. Besides, **Carlo Tadiar** (Metro's managing ed whom readers should know by now, at the rate I mention him; can't help it, we're lifestyle mates) said we should turn in early that night. Or so we thought.

In place of "Heaven," we opted for a drink and blue marlin *carpaccio* at Nuvo at Greenbelt, the latest hive to check out—first, for its '02 zen minimalist design whose critical component is its lighting (in the mode of Asia de Cuba in NY); second, for its **Billy King** cuisine; and third, for its Louie Y crowd.

Talk about blast from the past. Hardly had Carlo taken a sip of his martini when we saw **Irene** and **Greggy Araneta** walk down the stairway with **Bernice Ocampo** and host Louie Y. **Louie Ysmael**'s rolodex (or Palm V now) is still a social trove. At another table was ABS-CBN's **Bibot Nolan,** no doubt showing **MonMon Lopez**, who's briefly here from San Francisco, the metro nightscape circa '02. Nearby was the nearly all-girls table of **Ingrid Chua-Go**, who's now **Angela Montenegro Arroyo**'s good friend, by the way, and friends like **Barbie Pardo**.

We also ran into one of Manila's sexiest fashion models, **Gemith Gemparo**, who's now a PAL pilot. Shortly came Moissanite's **Mia Florencio** and friend **Cristine del Gallego**.

Given such a socialscape, we didn't have to say another word to ask friends to hop over to Nuvo, join us for drinks and the usual rat race-weary talk. Business, girls, datingscape, more girls—that's the agenda we end up tackling with such friends on go-easy nights such as this.

I get great amusement, even greater learning, and good quotes just listening to these friends who, precisely because I'm quoting them here, are better left unidentified. These are guys at the prime of their careers, eligibility and, ok, looks—so I don't want them delisted from any babe's list. (Besides, they won't let me get away with it.) I'll call them Jedi 1, 2 and 3 here, because first, they've seen the "Star Wars" series, including "The Attack of the Clones," at least thrice and know the Jedi dialogues by heart; second, because they apply the rules of the Jedi on Metro Manila's dating game. That interesting, that dauntless, that kinda hopeless.

Here are excerpts from our night with the Jedis:

"So, what's the update on xxx (no girls' names either, ok?) who won't let you get the upperhand?" I asked Jedi 2 in between our business agenda.

"She exchanged me for a dog," he said.

Oh, ok. We've always thought that the ratio being six to one, girls to guys, or is it higher now, guys have it easy when it comes to getting dates, or even finding relationships in Metro Manila. Much easier than the girls. But what I'm finding out is that's not necessarily the case.

Guys, or at least many guys, these days, don't really rush into dates. They study the girls over and over and ask themselves: "Is she playing that old Jedi mind trick on me?"

"You realize there are so, so many pretty girls these days, as if a lot more than in my time, or is that just my perception?" I asked them as we watched the mid-ribbed girls walk by from our window table.

"Yeah, she's right. There are," said Jedi 1.

"So it's incredible that dating should even be an issue with you guys," I said. "In fact, it's the girls I know who can't seem to find the dates they want."

"A girl friend asked me where Manila's bachelors are; she can't seem to find them," said Jedi 2. "Told her to check out the Counterstrike places."

"But girls today, especially in

THE NIGHT/ p.E3

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

a standing ovation by an audience that was the glitterati from the culture era of the '70s and '80s, when concert-going was a weekly social in the city. In the crowd were **Imelda Marcos**—she who turned culture into a social to-do—**Viol Delgado Cojuangco, Chinggay Diaz Lagdameo, Nori Ongsiako, Pitoy Moreno, Corito Kalaw** and, of course, the artist's loved ones, **Lyn Sunico, Lito Sunico**...

If the golf courses are half-empty tomorrow, it's because the guys should be at the UAAP games, Ateneo vs De La Salle. From the GenYers to the grizzly bears, these Ateneans and La Sallites really take this rivalry through generations. Just the other night, to hear my La Sallite friends talk about the odds (for the Archers, of course) and the tricks the Ateneans might pull, it felt like it was the running Arab-Israeli conflict on CNN primetime. But—there's one smart move I'm proud of. The Ateneo Art Gallery head **Richie Lerma** is using the UAAP to promote the ongoing "Whitewash" exhibit at the gallery. He's distributing exhibit T-shirts and even asking the Ateneo team to wear it. That's marketing savvy—bring high art to sports.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

The night I got locked-in in today's chic-est hive

From page E2

their early 20s, can also be fearless. *Ang hirap sakyan ng* interest," said Jedi 2.

"But then also, they can look and act ultra-modern, yet deep inside they're not," said Jedi 3.

The talk actually got more interesting into the night, with Manila's datingscape seeming more like the "Star War" series, and with guys such as these summoning the "Force" just to be able to deal with the right babe, but that deserves another story.

Past midnight, I told them we'd better disband after my trip to the restroom. The ladies' room was as minimalist-chic as the rest of the resto, the right gleaming black. It was empty so, instinctively, I locked its main door before I went into the cubicle.

Done, I got out of the cubicle, turned the knob of the main door. Uh, oh. Not opening. Turned the knob to the right, to the left, right again, left again, pulled, pressed. No go. In fact, the knob was loose like it had no hinge. I called Carlo's phone, "can't be reached," then Jedi 1's phone, "can't be reached," also. Didn't panic.

I tapped on the door, pulled the knob, then tapped again. Miracle. Jedi 1 was just going out of the men's room across from the ladies' and heard my knocking. He asked, "Thelma, is that you?"

"Yeah," I didn't shout, though I wanted to.

"You're locked in," he said. Obvious *ba?* Then I heard him call the resto staff and, I suspected, alerted the entire house as well.

In seconds, Carlo and the rest of the Jedis were right outside the door, with Carlo saying, "We'll get you out. Don't worry."

I wanted to say—of course, you'll have to get me out, if not tonight, at least before the New Year's Eve party here. But I just kept saying, "Ok." No use getting into arguments with your rescuers.

Honestly, I wasn't in a panic. I was more in a state of disbelief. Me, a Lopez Group executive and thus identified with Rockwell, is locked-in in a Greenbelt resto just when the so-called rivalry between Rockwell and Greenbelt is heating up, or so some people would have us believe. (In fact, that's near-fiction.)

What an irony. Disbelief turned into amusement as I heard Carlo tell the resto staff, "Oh no, she's the wrong person to lock in there" (as if there's a "right person" to lock up in the restroom).

Before I knew it, the Greenbelt security and maintenance people were there, doing all sorts of things on the door, with voices of instructions filtering into my restroom (note the possessiveness), some of them from the worried Jedis—as in "Stay away from the door, we're breaking it down."

This was the first time I got locked up in the restroom, so it wasn't my expertise, but nonetheless I didn't get claustrophobic because I wasn't in the cubicle—and because I was busy texting, describing to friends the progress of my incarceration. I think I also gave a graphic description of the restroom interiors, as if I was filing a design story—I was that bored. Of course, at 1:30 a.m., nobody was texting me back, not even my text-fiend friend.

After what seemed like 30 minutes, even more, they dismantled the door lock; that was the only way the door could open, short of breaking the whole thing down.

The staff led by **Valerian Rodrigues** was apologetic and very solicitous. Not their fault, I told them, but their contractor's.

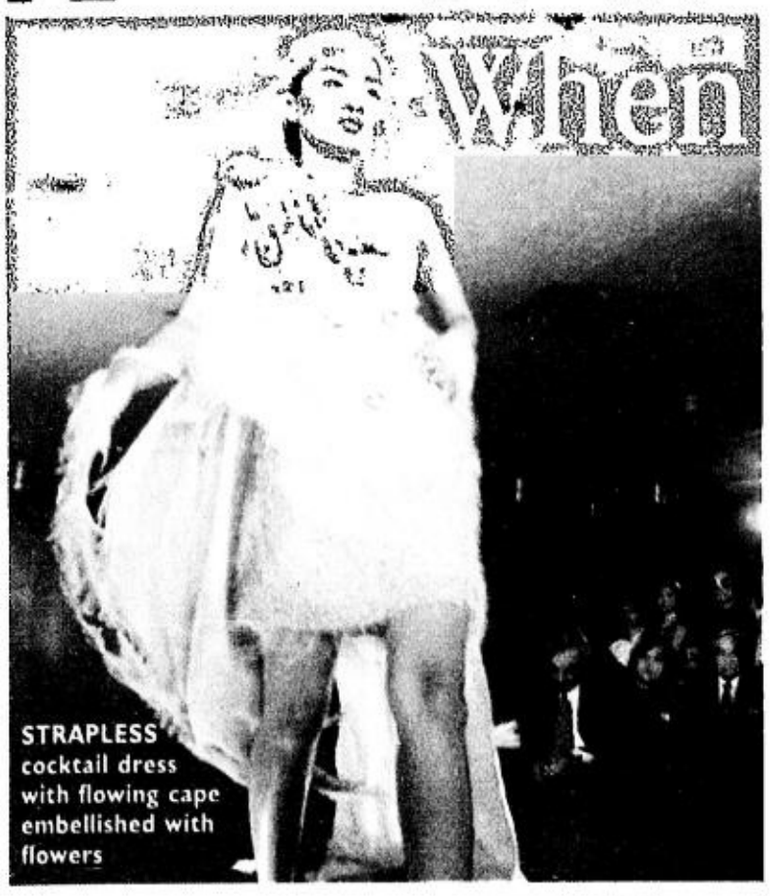
I think I emerged from the restroom wearing more a grin than a pale face. The staff offered us drinks—on the house. Carlo and the Jedis, of course, said why not, and I chided them, don't freeload on my "misery."

We had a few laughs and a few drinks after that. We assured Valerian and the staff that it was no big deal (a few minutes more, it would have been), thanked them and left Nuvo, closed the place down actually because it was that late. Not even that Jedi force could break that restroom door down, you know.

Blue-Green Saturday

MANY are still talking of **Raul Sunico**'s concert over the weekend. The pianist was given

When chiffon worked like a charm

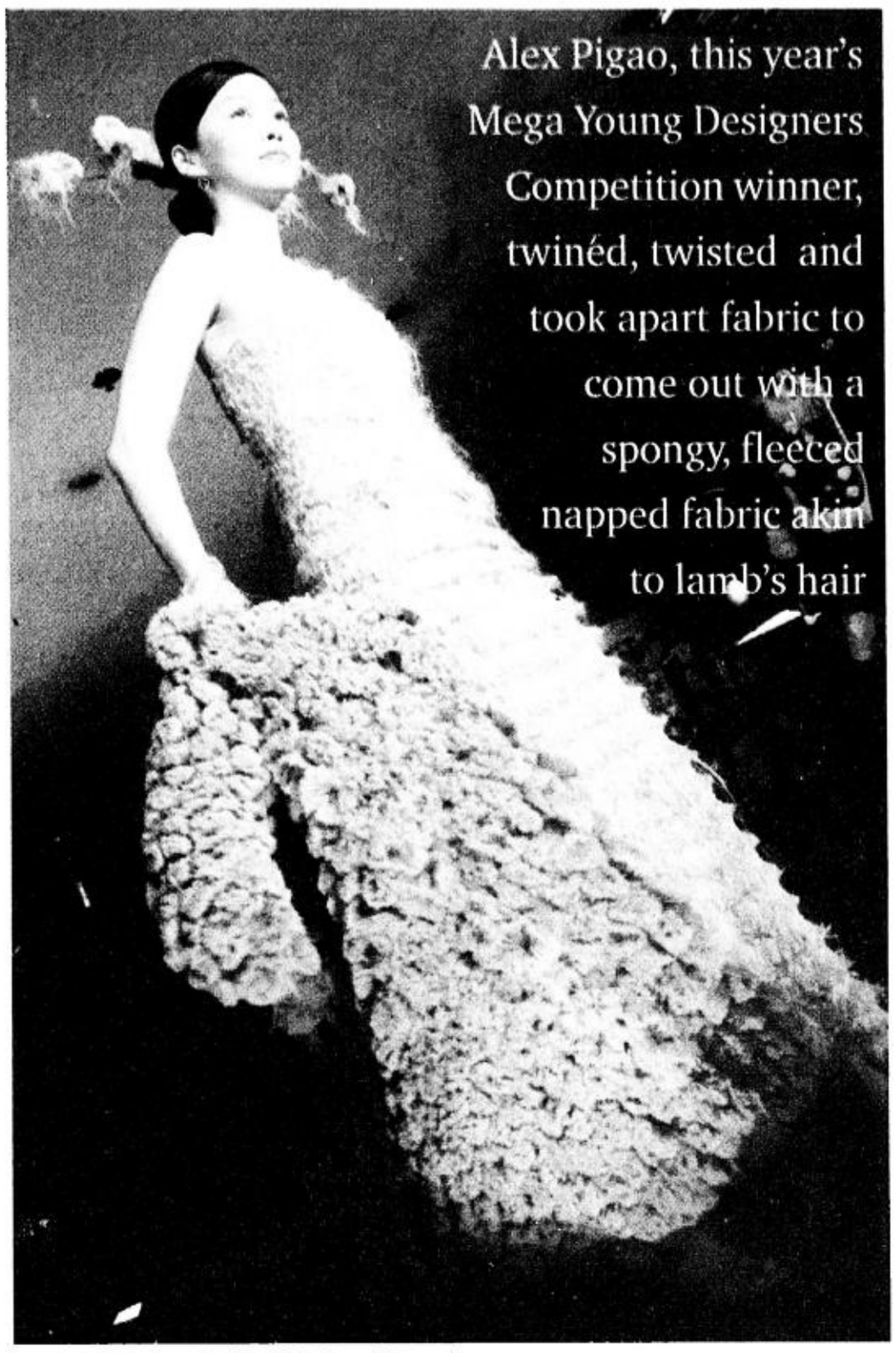


STRAPLESS cocktail dress with flowing cape embellished with flowers

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Joan Bondoc

LIKE a patient weaver meticulously putting together different fabric treatments to come up with a unified, seamless ensemble—losing sleep and yet never giving up until the vision is realized—achieving peace requires hard work, dedication and perseverance. The heart must not falter, the mind must be willing to endure and the body must be strong.

That's exactly what Alex Pigao, this year's Mega magazine Young Designers Competition winner, did. Working on the theme "Peace of Cloth," this 27-year-old from Ilocos Sur painstakingly researched fabrics and fabric manipulation, and came up with a treatment uniquely his own—uncut chiffon ensemble, with each piece fastidiously handmade by the designer.



Alex Pigao, this year's Mega Young Designers Competition winner, twinéd, twisted and took apart fabric to come out with a spongy, fleeced napped fabric akin to lamb's hair

EVENING gown with tiered design skirt and overcoat

Pigao bested nine other designers—Chris Diaz, Lizanne Cua, Edgar Buyan, LZ Punzalan, Ivan Aseron, Roel Rosal, RCXY Bautista, Mich Dulce and James Reyes.

Judges were Fashion Designers Association of the Phils. president Ole Morabe, Fashion and Design Council of the Phils.' Randy Ortiz, Fashion Designers Group representative Mike de la Rosa, Philippine International School of Fashion's Andree Belanger and chair of the board/Mega magazine creative director Lorraine Belmonte.

As overall winner, Pigao will apprentice with Canadian haute-couture designer Marie St. Pierre, and will also show his designs to the graduating class of La Salle College International of Canada in Montreal. In addition, his YDC entries will be displayed at Rustan's U section, 4/F Rustan's Makati.

Pigao doesn't believe in avant-garde fashion, or designers who let their fantasies go haywire during conceptualization. He sticks to the basic lines and shapes, and experiments only with fabric manipulation. For his YDC collection, chiffon is twined and twisted, sometimes taken apart piece by piece for a hairlike effect.

Wearability

"I design clothes that are wearable, not for anything else. My clothes are for the elegant women," he says. His execution of chiffon produced a spongy, fleeced napped fabric akin to lamb's hair. As chiffon is a naturally soft and breathable fabric, his clothes easily flow with feminine curves, making room for maximum comfort and wearability.

"There's unity in my creations. Everything is a continuous flow of chiffon, except for the parts where I had to put the zippers," Pigao says. He diligently wove together strips of the fabric—careful not to break this delicate cloth. In the end, he used more than 150 yards, to be exact.

A skirt, for example, used 20 yards of chiffon. One dress alone took him three weeks to finish, working from 8 a.m.-3 a.m. As if that's not hard enough, he had to create his flower appliqués, producing an average of more than 50 a day, sometimes close to a hundred.

Inspired by love

His all-brown collection mirrors the Filipinos' skin color, which he says is an appreciation of the past, when Filipinos had to create something out of nothing without the aid of technology. Pigao accented his clothes with pearls, transparent cut beads and wooden, Philippine-made trimmings.

His line is inspired by the Banaue Rice Terraces, which he says is a work of love. "The Great Wall of China, for instance, was created because of war," he adds.

Designing his YDC collection took all of his time that Pigao had to forego orders from his regular clientele. In the end, his determination paid off.

And what does the future hold for this young man? "I have more than 20 ideas for fabrics inside my head right now," he sighs. "I love fibers! And I will come out with rainbow colors for my RTW line someday."

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

YDC winner Alex Pigao is close to tears as he receives his award from Andree Belanger and Lorraine Belmonte.

QUARTER-SLEEVE formal wear with appliquéd collar, geometric pattern on the skirt and fringy hemline

KAUAI dress

A thong of beauty

SASHA
bra and
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CASABLANCA
bra and hotpants

COSABELLA, which means "beautiful thing" in Italian, features vibrant colors and tropical prints in its latest collection.

The latest line is part of the company's efforts to constantly offer women something new and fresh. Cosabella has been cited by many celebrities for its thongs, which have become indispensable to every woman's wardrobe. The thong, as made by Cosabella, stays put no matter how the wearer moves. It has been named "Thong of the Year" by In Style Magazine.

Cosabella added recently to its line of underwear the Soire Low-Rider Thong in response to the growing popularity of skimpy hip-hugger pants. It is available in a wide assortment of bright colors.

Aside from thongs, the company also has an impressive array of bras, camis and body-conscious outerwear.

Cosabella has also created a bra in a rainbow of colors capable of giving an outfit an additional layer of color and texture. The Soire molded bra gives shape and support while flattering the body. It is available in over 22 solid colors, adapting to seasonal shade changes.

Cosabella is designed in Miami, Florida, and manufactured in Italy, fusing the best of American design with Italian craftsmanship. It uses innovative fabrics and avant-garde prints. The label has received the prestigious Diva 2000 award in the Intimate Apparel category.

Cosabella is available at Loungerie located inside Wish at the Makati Shangri-La Shopping Arcade. Call 867-3852.

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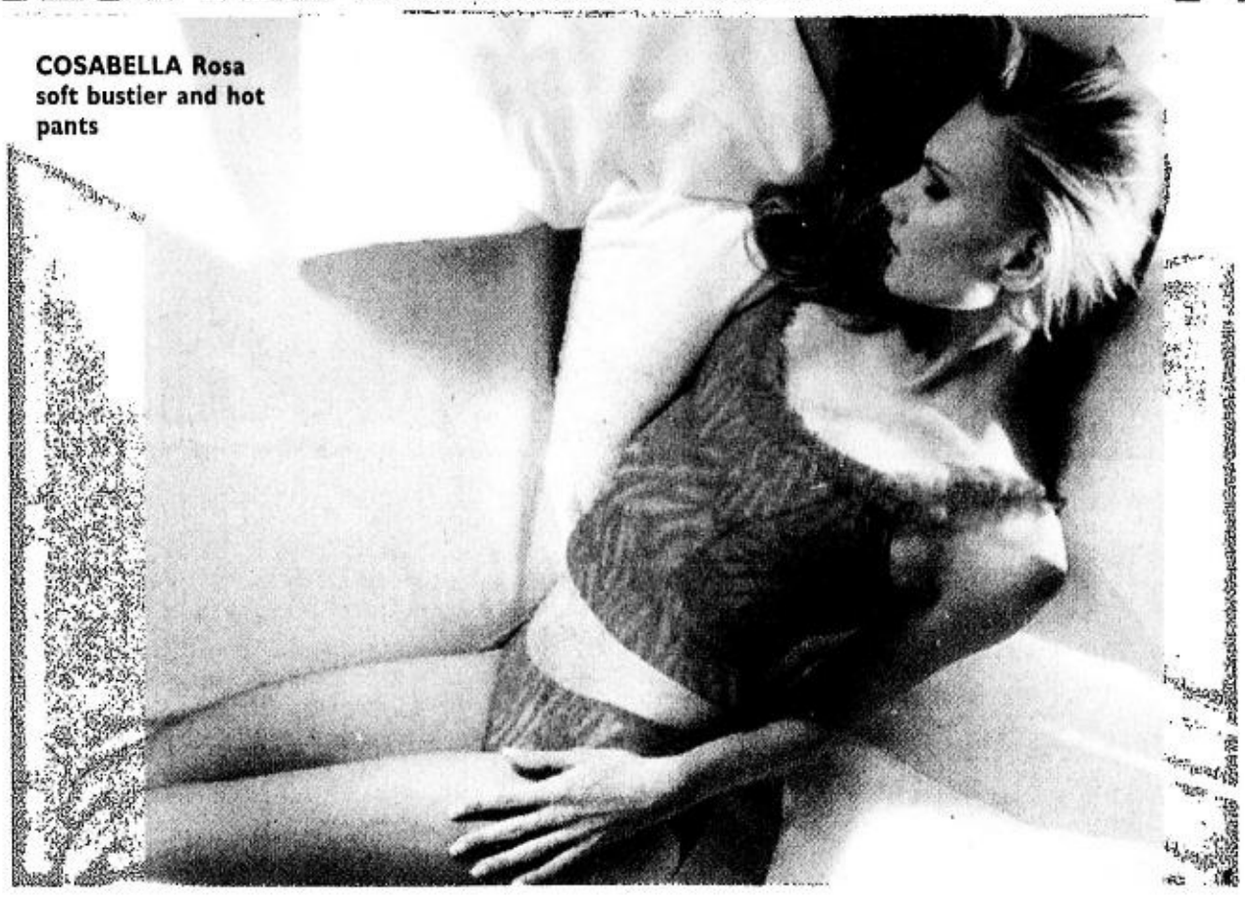
bustier
and skirt



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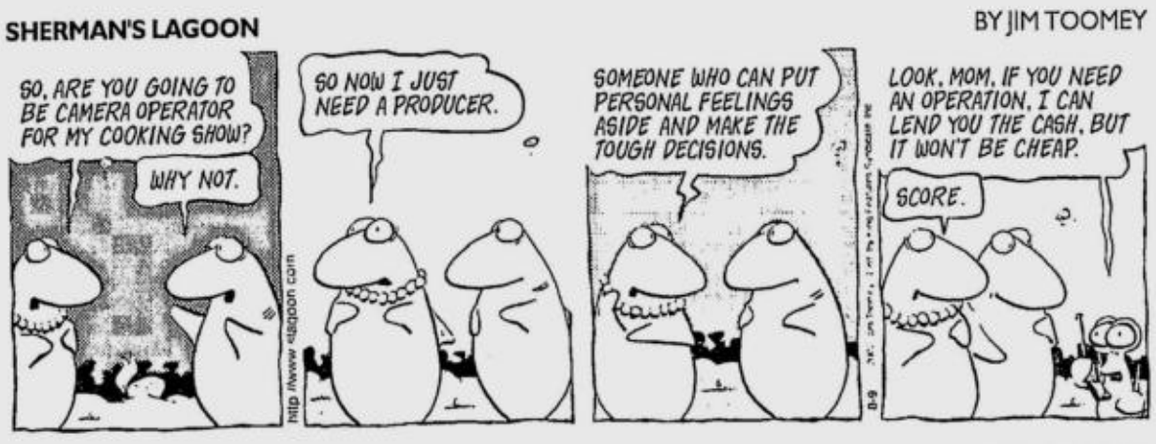

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BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNEL

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Whitney Houston, Melanie Griffith, Robert Shaw, Sam Elliot

Happy Birthday: Take a second look at some of the things you've been involved in over the years. If you are tired and feeling used, take some time to put things back in perspective. Build slowly and make sure youfind security in what you are doing. You have an abundance of energy to reach your goals.Your numbers are 3, 17, 21, 24, 33, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can expect to get a good response from people you talk to about a project you want to get involved in. You will enjoy the company of friends and relatives and will attract romantic partners today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Health problems will result if you overindulge. A co-worker or friend is likely to withhold pertinent information. Don't rely on others to do what you know you should be doing yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Worthwhile groups will be glad to have your dedicated support. You will develop friendships with older, established individuals who can and will support your efforts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Budget restrictions may unintentionally cause upset and worry. If you are quick to respond to a good deal, you will recover what you lost and more.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your mood will be easily altered by intuitive feelings picked up from others. You may find yourself becoming introspective, even shy and reclusive today. Focus on yourself and your goals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Forceful action may lead to problems with an authority figure today. You could have difficulties while traveling and trouble getting along with your peers. Take a breather for today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll have the ability to mix work with pleasure today, which will lead to meeting others with similar interests. Any involvement in organizations that help others will result in new partnerships.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Opposition will occur if you are fanatical in your ideas and beliefs. Don't jump to conclusions and don't think that your way is the only way. Take a look around and check your motives.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be inclined to speak forcefully about your beliefs. Greater interaction with siblings or friends can be expected. Travel will be beneficial, but costly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll attract someone with complaints today. Don't give in to their demands. Give advice, not cash. Avoid joint ventures and don't lend anything to a friend.

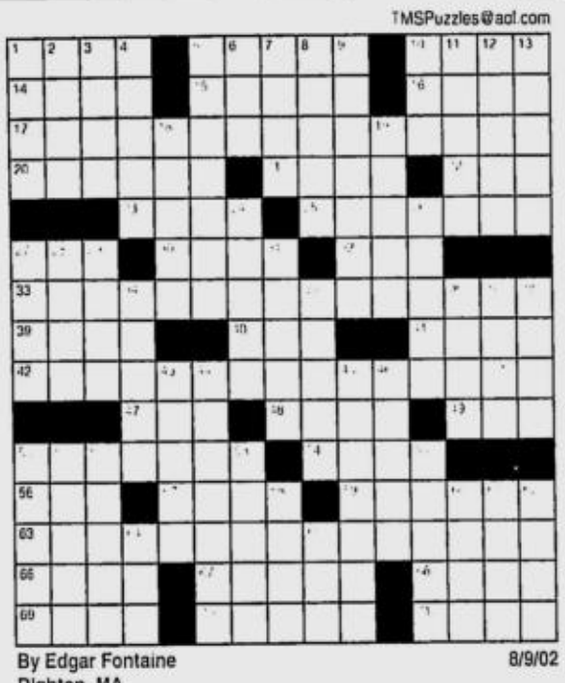
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be able to help someone you love just by being tuned into the way this person is feeling. Your personal partnership may experience an unusual transition due to your understanding.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You won't be satisfied with anything average. You want everything to be bigger and better. No one should underestimate your abilities today. You'll be a fierce competitor.

Birthday Baby: You always gravitate to where the action is and you always stand out in a crowd. You will have a sophisticated approach to all that you do, putting you in a prime position throughout your life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Edgar Fontaine
Dighton, MA

8/9/02

ACROSS
1 Miss Cinders of comics
5 Funny Imogene and others
10 Get lost!
14 Bank offering
15 Sidestep
16 Cup on a green
17 What's up?
20 Comfortable
21 Hubbub
22 On the contrary
23 Collars, as a perp
25 Lower ranks
27 Word in sequels
30 Gershwin and Remsen
32 Itty-bitty
33 What's up?
39 One of Central Park's 840
40 Thor Heyerdahl's __-Tiki
41 European eagle
42 What's up?
47 Three-way junction
48 Oahu feast
49 Booming jet
50 Guy at the plate
54 Turkish money
56 Numerical ending
57 Bard grad, e.g.
59 Goddess of wisdom
63 What's up?
66 Narrated
67 Bind anew
68 Nothing but
69 Iditarod vehicle
70 Loses one's cool
71 Winter weather

DOWN
1 Island near Corsica
2 Lummox
3 Plaster support
4 Entertainer Susan
5 Seats of consciousness
6 Caesar's eggs
7 Quitter's word
8 Supplement
9 Land
10 Egyptian deity
11 Jazz group
12 "Revolver" or "Thriller"
13 Experiments
18 Computer communique
19 Perfected
24 Defensive-team stats
26 Companies of badgers
27 Even exchange
28 Killer whale
29 __ a one (none)
31 Site of the 1988 Olympics
34 Fuels from bogs
35 Invalidate
36 Goddess of discord
37 Additional conjunctions
38 Encounter
43 Thread: pref.
44 Blackjack staff
45 Water nymphs
46 Mongolian tents
50 Surpasses
51 Playwright Fugard
52 Oar holder
53 Guiding spirit in Roman myth
55 Interruptions
58 __ Hari
60 Fifty-fifty
61 Roman tyrant
62 Once more
64 Uneven?
65 Pull from a jug

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A	D	U	L	T		S	T	I	R	S		B	A	D
S	O	F	A	R		C	A	D	E	T		A	B	E
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			S	I	E	N	A			N	I	K	O	N
M	A	C		K	A	T		H	A	C	K	E	R	S
A	R	A	R	A	T		B	E	L	I	E	D		
M	O	L	E	S		A	R	I	E	L		O	A	T
B	A	L	D		B	L	U	R	S		F	U	M	E
A	R	I		C	O	O	T	S		L	A	T	I	N
	T	H	R	O	N	E		P	I	T	O	N	S	
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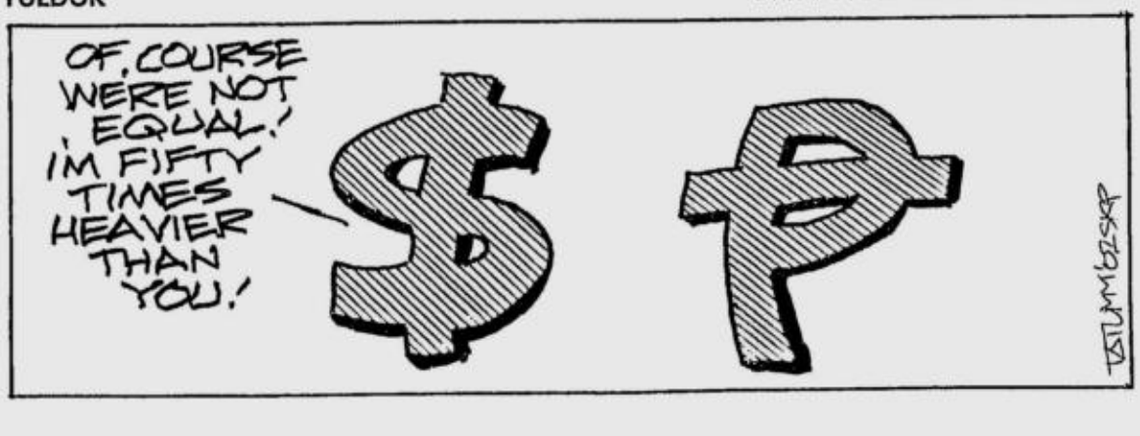
8/9/02

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

GENG'S GAMES BY AMIEL RUFO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Can biotech foods harm the environment?

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THE CONTROVERSY regarding genetically engineered (also referred to as biotech foods) has not abated. As a matter of fact, it continues with greater fervor as more food gets into the GE list.

Questions on the safety of such foods are paramount in the minds of most people. They fear the certain crops like Bt corn (for Bacillus thuringiensis) that are engineered to resist certain insect pests, may harm other non-target insects, and perhaps humans. The case of the caterpillars of the monarch butterfly it set up as an example. Monarch caterpillars don't eat corn pollen, but they feed on the leaves of milkweed plants, which tend to grow near the corn fields. Scientists showed that when monarch caterpillars ate milkweed leaves containing Bt corn pollen, they become stunted or were killed. Such impact on the environment from biotech foods is discussed in detail in a series of articles published in the National Geographic magazine.

Among the questions brought up by the articles is: Can biotech foods harm the environment? The answer is: It depends on who you ask. Advocates of genetically-engineered crops say that GE plants "offer an environmentally-friendly alternative to pesticides which tend to pollute surface and groundwater, and harm wildlife." They claim that the use of Bt corn or Bt varieties of crops has dramatically reduced the amount of pesticides on cotton crops.

Non-advocates, on the other hand, worry that some genetically-engineered crops are being developed too quickly and released on millions of acres of farmland "before they've been adequately tested for their possible long-term ecological impact." And they cite the fate of the monarch caterpillars to enhance the argument that crops with built-in insecticides might damage wildlife.

But advocates point out pollen densities from Bt corn rarely reach levels dangerous to milkweed "even when monarchs are feeding on plants within a cornfield," and the chances of a caterpillar eating doses of Bt pollen is "negligible." As a matter of fact, the advocates stress, "butterflies are safer in a Bt cornfield than in a conventional cornfield where they're subjected to chemical pesticides that kill not just caterpillars, but most insects in the fields."

Ecologists and non-advocates are not changing their minds on this argument. They believe that the most damaging impact of biotech crops could be "gene flow" (the movement of genes through pollen and seeds from one set of plants to another). As genes flow from crops to weeds all the time by wind, bees and other pollinators, the tendency of GE crops is to go to "nearby relatives."

Scientists of GE crops maintain, however, that gene flow takes place only between related species, and since most US crops do not have close relatives growing nearby, "it's extremely unlikely that gene flow will occur to create problem weeds."

Even a low probability of gene flow could still occur, non-advocates rebut, when the area planted to consists of thousands of acres. And in developing countries which are supposed to be among the major beneficiaries of this new technology and where planting is usually done near related crops, the risk of "flowing" out is certainly higher.

What GE food advocates have going for them is the dream that biotech foods will eventually alleviate world hunger. Many countries, in Africa particularly, pray that this dream comes true, for famine and starvation are specters that lurk in the midst daily.

The final question inevitably crops up: What next? The answer: Proceed with caution. Whether biotech foods will rise up to their promise of feeding world populations remains to be seen, states the report. The potential of biotech food may only make us "pay for accidents or errors in judgment in ways we cannot yet imagine." The greatest mistake of all, the report concludes, would be to "blindly reject or endorse" the new technology.

We are thus advised to analyze carefully how, where and why genetically-altered products are introduced; test them thoroughly; and judge them wisely. Only then should we "weigh their risks against their benefits to those who need them most."

SHOW chair Rex Puentespina and club president Rolita "Baby" Spowart show some *waling-waling* plants that will be exhibited during the 10-day show.

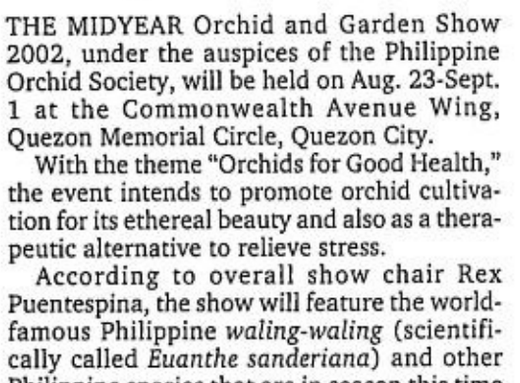
POS hosts orchid and garden show

THE MIDYEAR Orchid and Garden Show 2002, under the auspices of the Philippine Orchid Society, will be held on Aug. 23-Sept. 1 at the Commonwealth Avenue Wing, Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City.

With the theme "Orchids for Good Health," the event intends to promote orchid cultivation for its ethereal beauty and also as a therapeutic alternative to relieve stress.

According to overall show chair Rex Puentespina, the show will feature the world-famous Philippine *waling-waling* (scientifically called *Euanthe sanderiana*) and other Philippine species that are in season this time of the year, including hybrids that originated from other countries. Apart from orchids, there will be rare and exotic ornamentals and pet birds to be incorporated in the showcase landscape. There will also be lecture-demonstrations daily on orchid growing, business opportunity and flower arrangement.

For commercial booth reservation and other details, call 929-4425 or (0917) 848-5468.



THE STRAWBERRY pear plant is a climbing cactus.

Strawberry pears forever

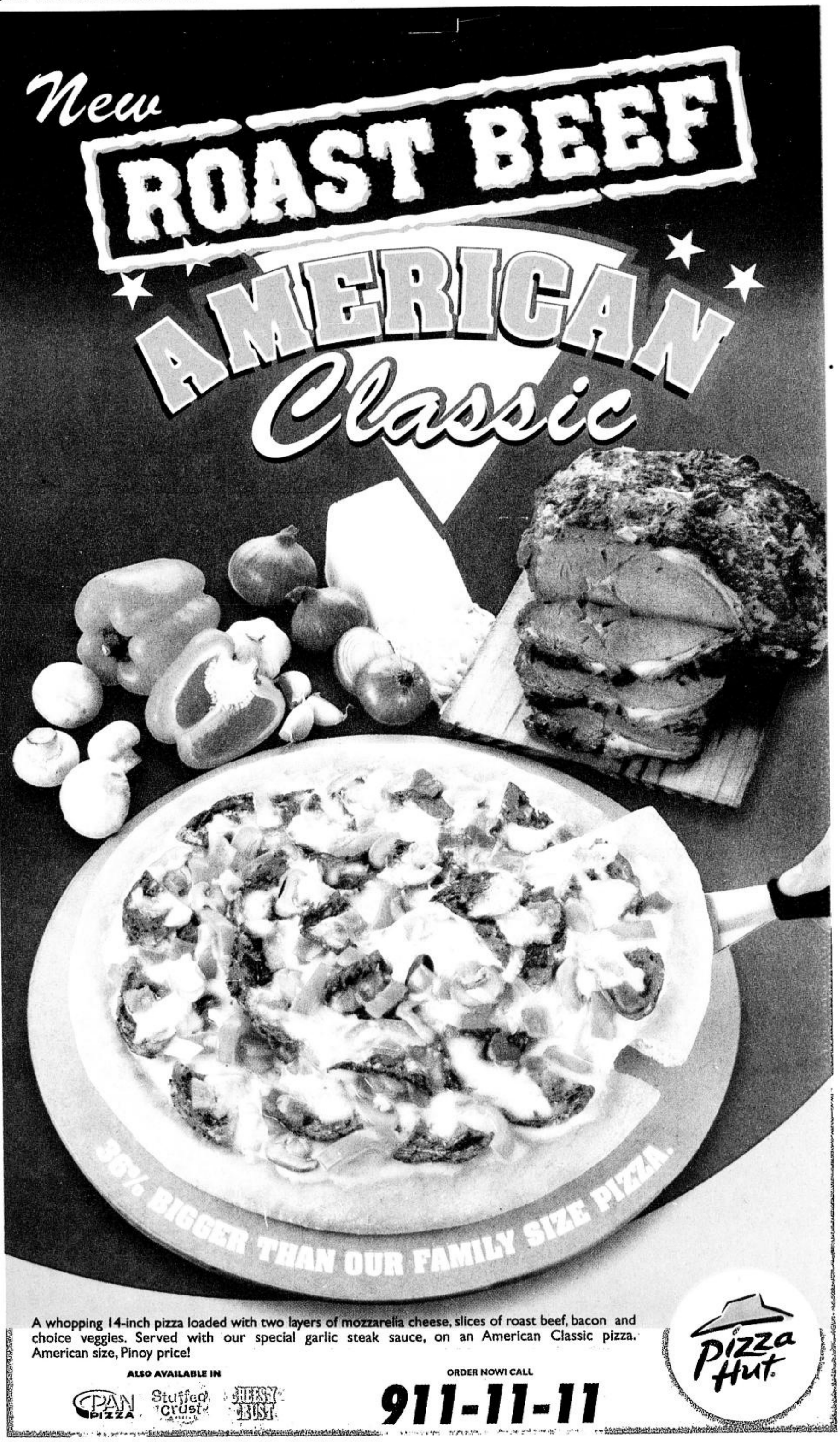
STRAWBERRY pear (*hylocereus undatus*) is a climbing cactus from the tropical rainforests of Central and South America. Latinos call it *pitaya* or *pitahaya*. In the 1800s, the French introduced strawberry pear in Vietnam, where it was grown exclusively for the king. The Vietnamese gave the fruit an exotic appellation: dragon fruit.

Today, this fruit formerly reserved for royalty is grown in Mindanao under the meticulous supervision of Unifruit Inc. The strawberry pear plant has multiple fleshy branches that may reach up to 20 ft in length. Its white, bell-shaped flowers are awesome and very fragrant. The flower blooms at night, which is why the plant is also called night-blooming cereus.

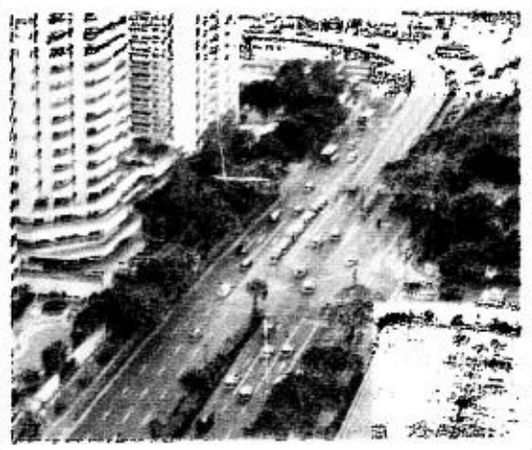
In Bogotá, hotels serve *pitaya* whole or halved as dessert, preferably chilled. The flesh can be mixed with milk and sugar, and the juice is relished as a cool drink.

Its natural high fiber helps in digestion and cleanses the body of unwanted pollutants. Regular consumption improves the condition of anemic persons; the overall health and energy of young ones, and the glucose control in persons with non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus. The stems and flowers, on the other hand, are used to treat headaches and kidney ailments.

The plant blooms and bears fruit mainly in August and September, so this is the right time to savor this heavenly gift of nature. To order strawberry pears, call 838-6687 and 837-6684.



picture-perfect date G



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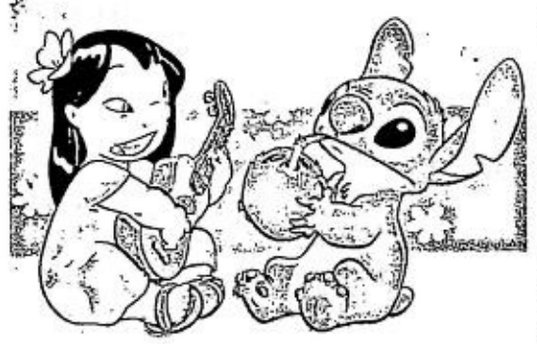

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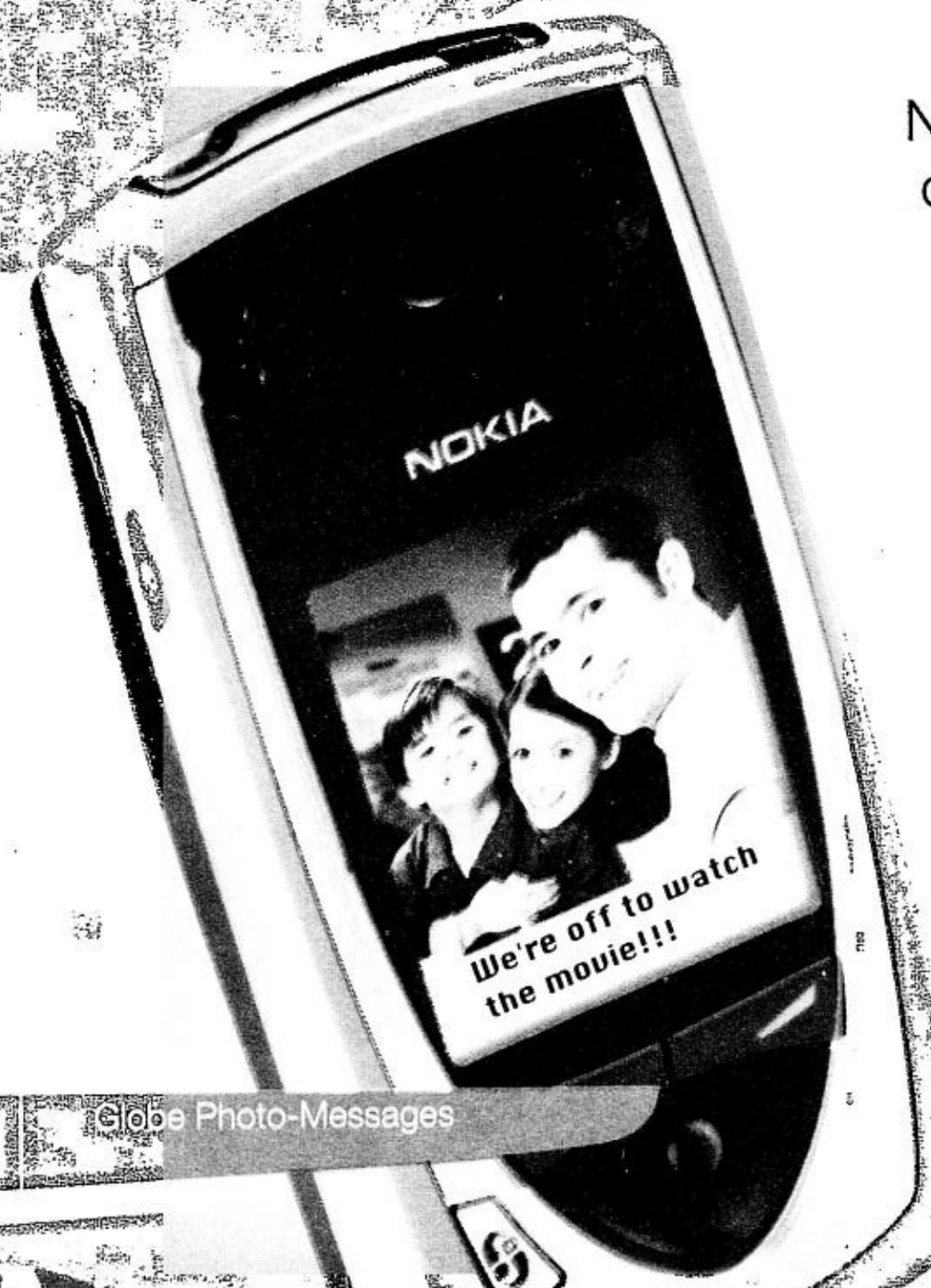

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The design don's demesne

A floor space of 77 sq m can really stretch your imagination

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

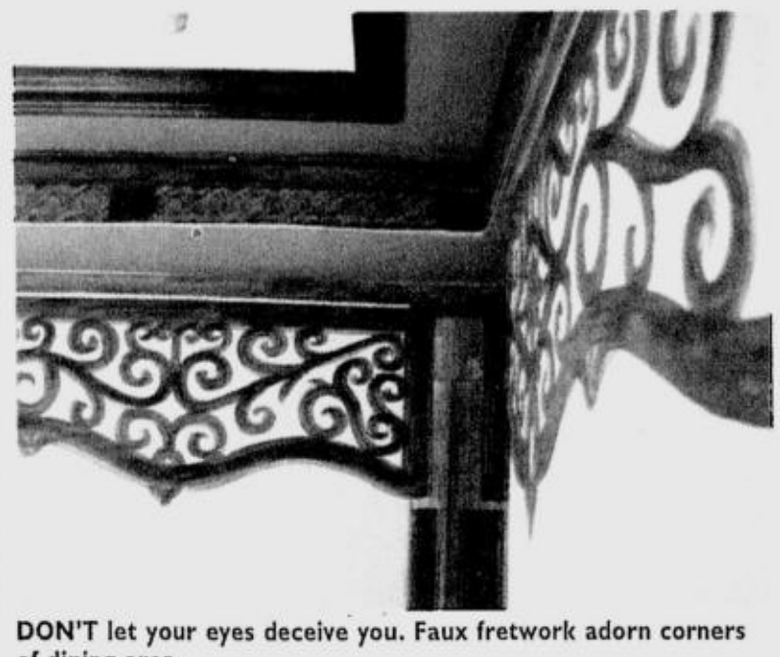
DON'T let a condominium unit's limited space stymie your creativity. There are a million things you can do to spruce up and impart a small home with character provided it has a good floor plan.

If not for Jie Pambid's flair and common sense, the condo unit he shares with Lou Quijano would have degenerated into a mishmash of styles due to its limited space. With a floor space of 77 sq m, their three-bedroom affair in old Makati is far from roomy.

"It took us a long time to find an ideal place," he says. "Despite its size, this condo unit fits our respective lifestyles perfectly. I love the way it was laid out, especially the separate kitchen and laundry area."

As an educator and interior designer, Jie also had to come up with something striking if he were to be taken seriously by both

THE DESIGN/ p.F2



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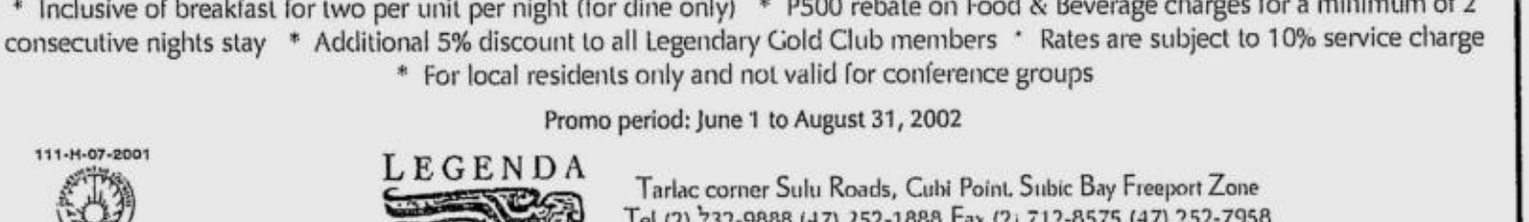

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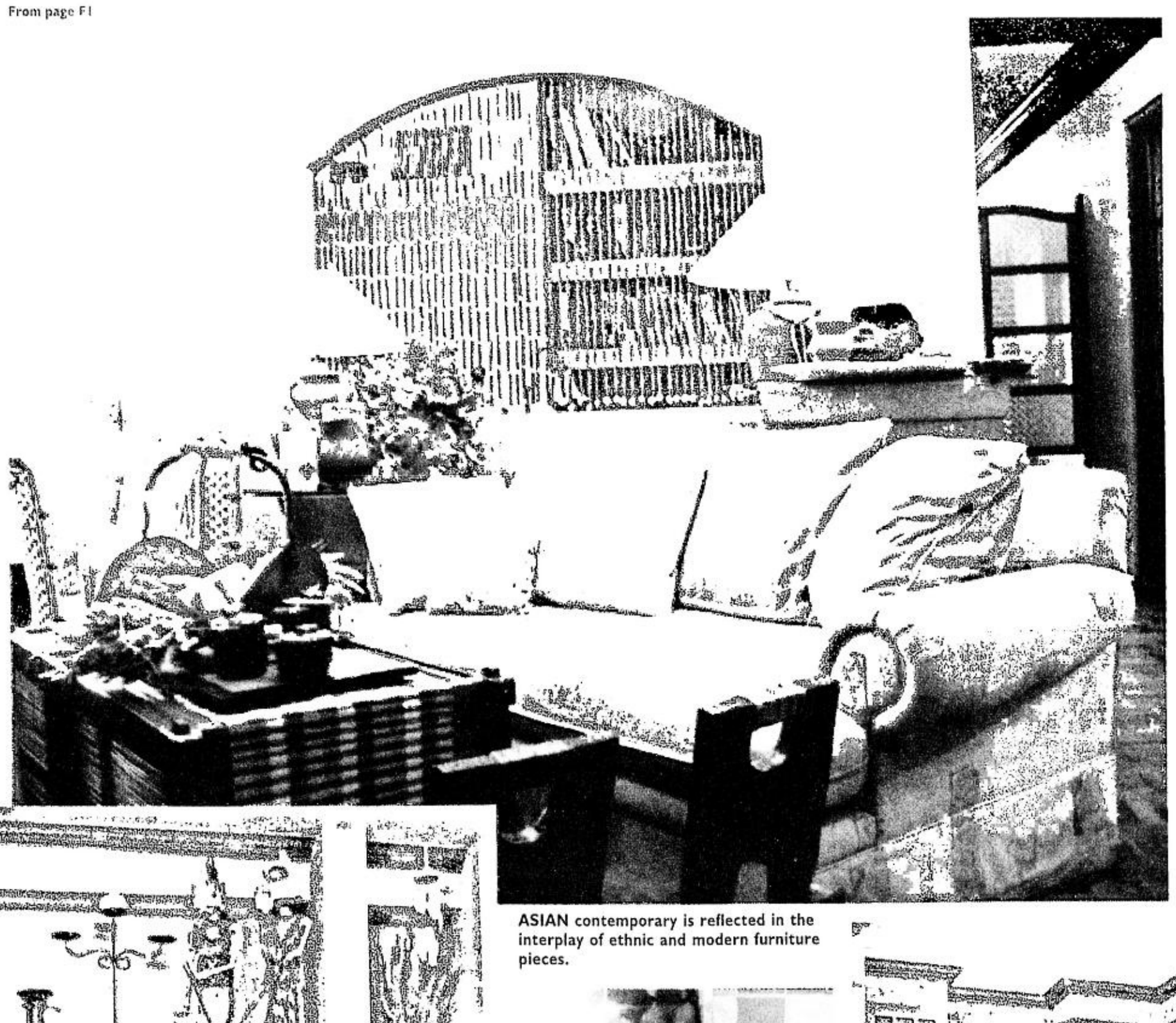
play & display

ALCOVE dining assumes spatial and tactile qualities through a trompe l'oeil of Balinese posts and fretwork. Jie Pambid is able to define the dining area like a favorite nook in one of those fancy restaurants.

A PAIR of saloon doors, in a series of framed apple glass, separates public from private spaces.

The design don's demesne

From page F1



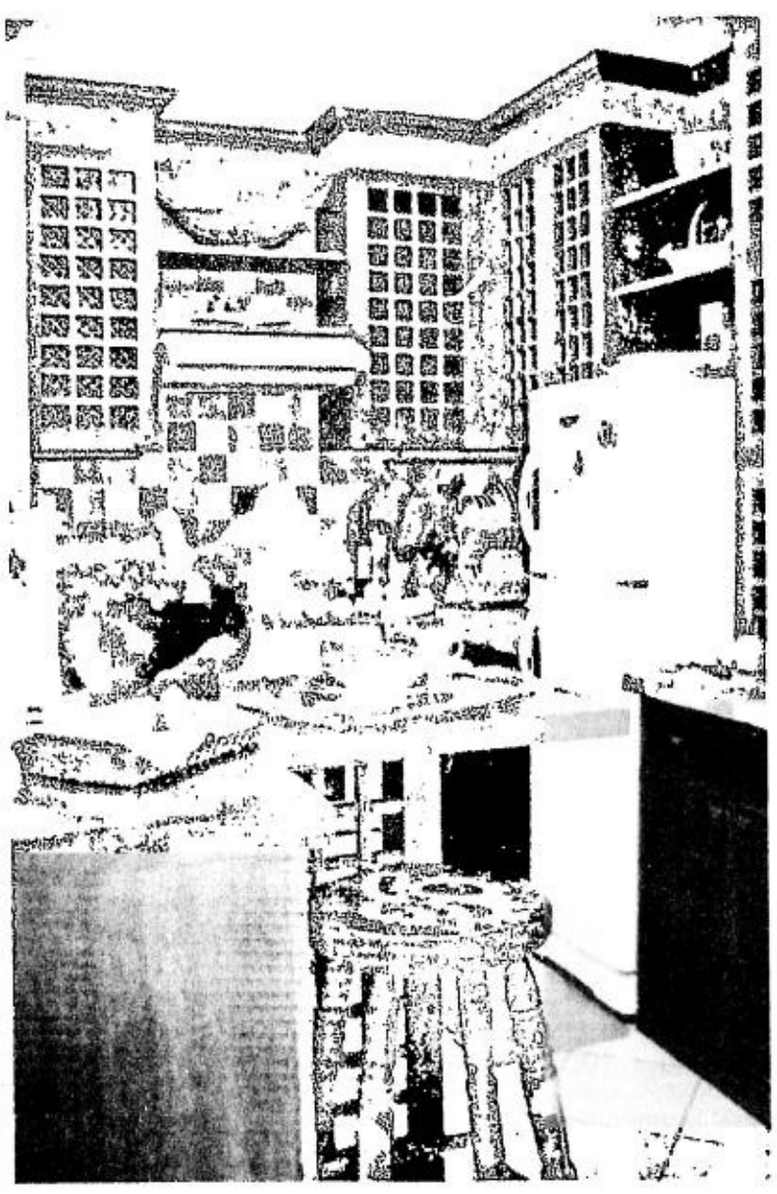
Interior designer and educator Jie Pambid makes an educational showcase out of his limited private space

JIE finds another use for this Balinese cabinet by converting it into an entertainment center. Balinese touches spill out in the choice of accent pieces, especially the pair of dolls atop the cabinet.

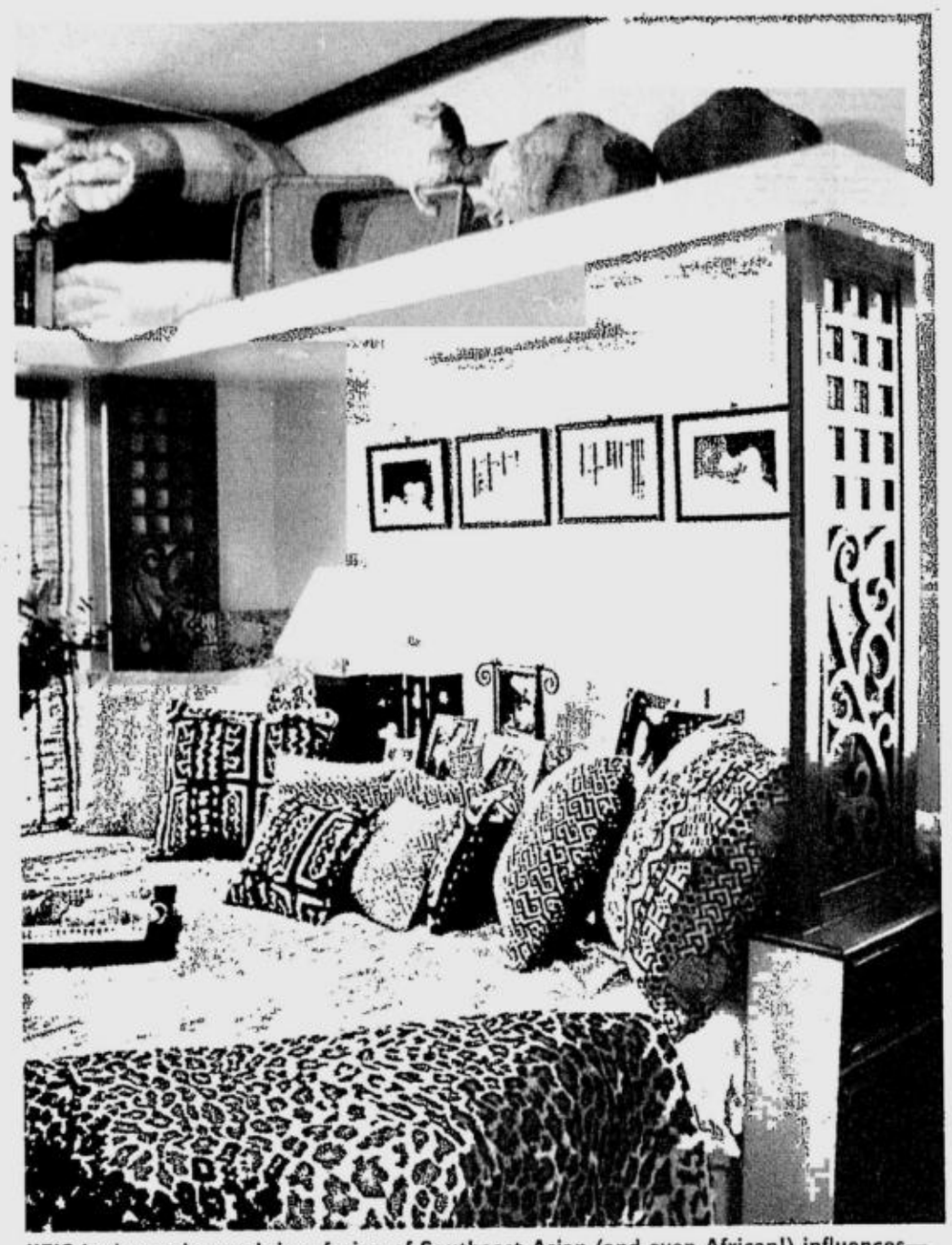
THE DESIGN/ p.F3

ASIAN contemporary is reflected in the interplay of ethnic and modern furniture pieces.

THE EARTHY kitchen gets a spark of color via matte blue ceramic tiles.



The design don's demesne



JIE'S bedroom is awash in a fusion of Southeast Asian (and even African!) influences—from the prints to the woodwork. A pair of ledges is both aesthetic and functional.

From page F2

students and clients. Lou, an old friend, is one of his graduating students this semester. Except for her room, she has virtually given Jie a free hand to transform their empty shell of a unit to its present state.

"We shopped together for furniture pieces most of the time," she says. "He knows what I do and don't like. That's how close we've become."

As dean of the Philippine School of Interior Design, a post he assumed only recently, Jie has made his home an extension of the school. Students often go there to swap stories and ideas with their revered teacher.

"I'm quite close to my students," he says. "I enjoy spending time with them even at home. Of course, I have to project a certain design statement to look credible."

Jie and Lou also converted an extra bedroom by the living room into an office cum work area where they attend to clients. He owns and manages J.P. Lake and Associates, an interior design firm (tel. 899-94-97).

Balinese touches

Jie's preference for Southeast Asian influences, particularly Balinese, is quiet evident the minute you enter the living room. He describes the look as Asian contemporary in its interplay of modern and traditional furniture pieces.

"I used to love ethnic stuff," he says. Their home is probably a watered-down version of that former phase.

An old Balinese cabinet, for instance, is a perfect foil to the beige sofa from one of Metro Manila's leading home stores. The wooden cabinet doubles as an entertainment center, and is framed by a series of shelves that feature various accent pieces. A pair of Balinese dolls, a gift from a friend, crowns the cabinet.

One of the living room's focal points is its cove ceiling that's both aesthetic and functional. Made from a series of wooden cornices accented by dark apple glass, the edge conceals unsightly water sprinklers. In lieu of curtains, Jie chose several matchstick blinds to tame the harsh afternoon sun.

Cascading curtains made from strings of dry reeds and shells define the office space from the rest of the house. At the same time, the curtains don't impede the flow of cold air coming from the air conditioner. Jie had an arch carved out of the wall separating the living room from the former bedroom.

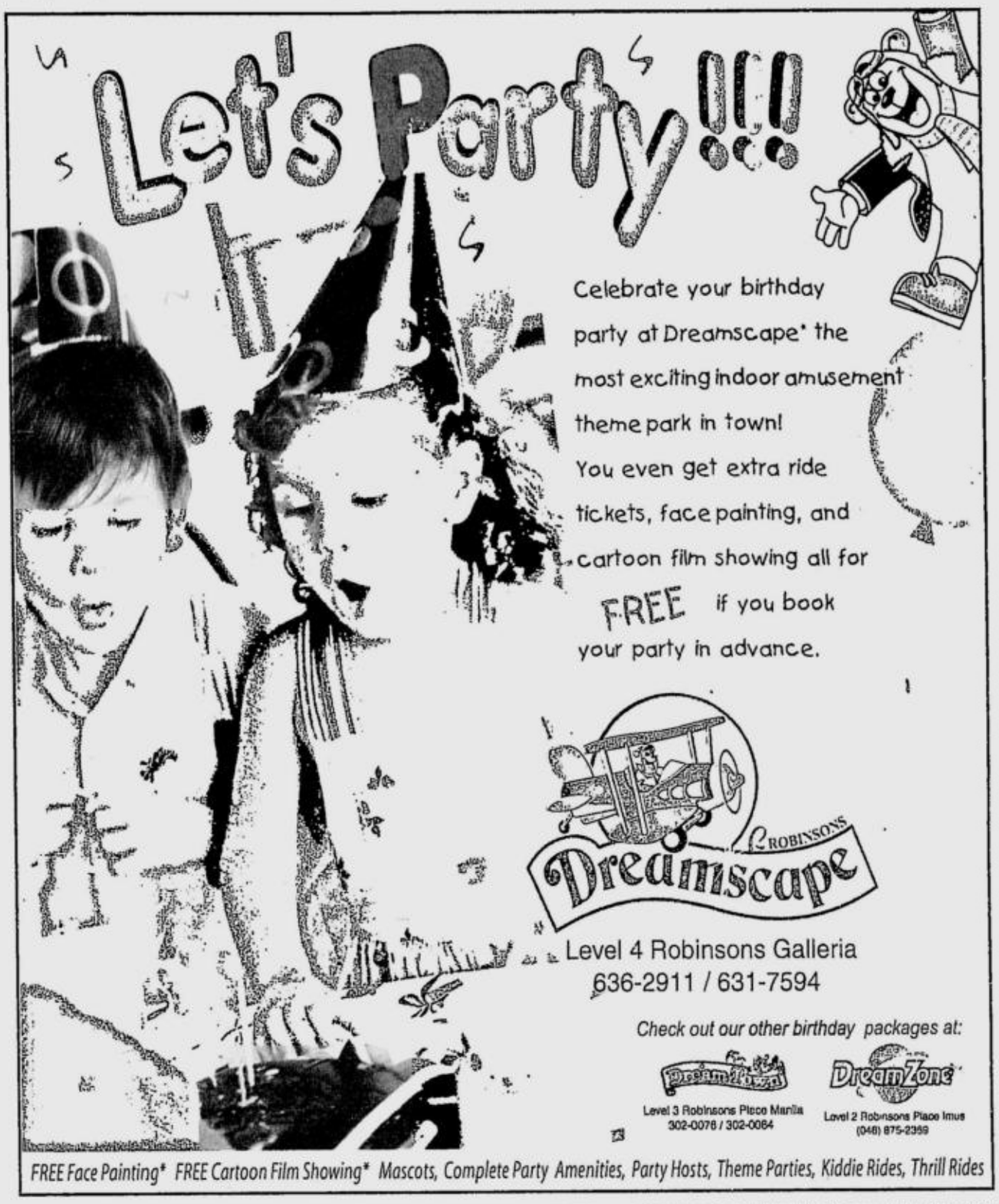
Except for bursts of yellow and red here and there, the house's color scheme is primarily limited to earth tones. The walls, for instance, are painted in caramel that succeeds in imparting the place with a warm afterglow. Bright colors are limited to the floral and fruit arrangements.

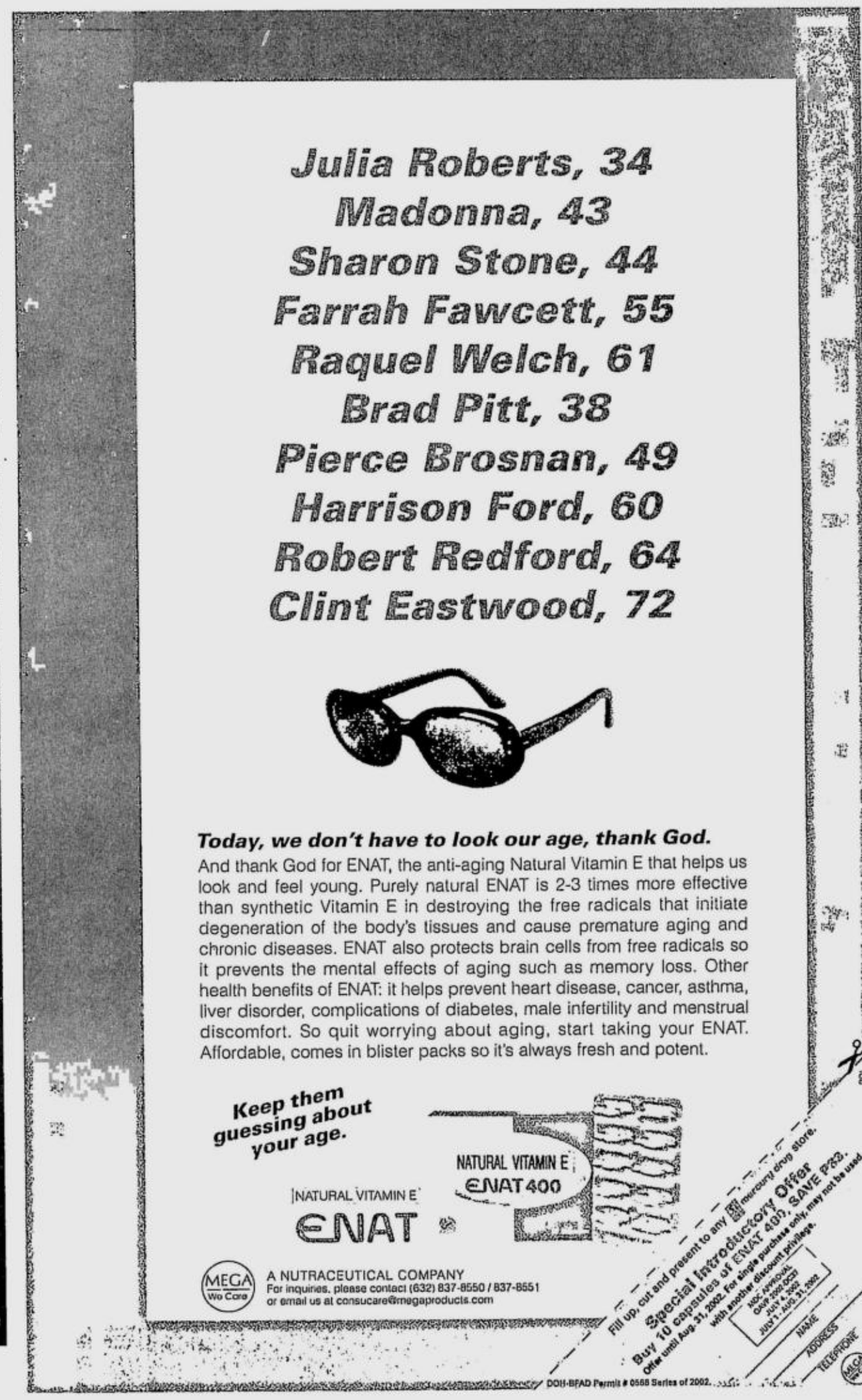
"I don't usually go for white and other pastel shades," he says. "I'm really down to earth even in my choice of colors. But I need to put some spark every now and then to break the monotony."

That he did in the kitchen. Matte blue ceramic tiles interspersed with earthy staples such as beige and terra cotta make for an interesting combination. The tiles were originally bigger, but Jie had them cut to a third not without consequences. "I turned the broken tiles into a mosaic above the kitchen cabinets."

THE DESIGN/ p.F4

LOU Quijano's bedroom mirrors Japanese and Balinese touches. A pair of fretwork spruces up the fanlight, while matchstick curtains temper the afternoon glare.





The design don's demesne

From page F3

Long on imagination

Although short on space, the unit's owners are long on imagination. The dining area, for instance, is set in an alcove that defines it from the rest of the house. Jie, of course, didn't leave it at that.

In keeping with the unit's Balinese theme, he commissioned several artists to paint faux posts and fretwork on the alcove's walls. Aside from highlighting the area like one's favorite nook in a fancy restaurant, the trompe l'oeil's tactile and spatial qualities impart it with an illusion of space.

Jie's skill in playing with textures and patterns is quite evident in a number of furniture pieces. Wrought iron chairs, for instance, acquire a softer, indoor feel when fused with woven rattan.

Despite the unit's limited space, private and public areas have been well defined. How did Jie do it? A pair of saloon doors made of framed apple glass, this time in warm amber, along the corridor separates the living room and dining area from the two bedrooms.

Jie again opted for a drop ceiling to conceal unsightly sprinklers. Framed prints of ancient Egyptians adorn the walls leading to his bedroom.

Jie's private space is expectedly far from spacious. Instead of a headboard, he framed

DESPITE the limited space, Jie is able to define the office through the use of cascading curtains made of dry reeds and seashells. The wrought iron furniture is given an indoor feel through woven rattan.

the single bed with a pair of stylized panels he himself designed. They in turn support a second ledge where some of his books, comforters and accent pieces compete for space. On the opposite side of the ledge is a pair of pin lights.

A lower ledge features several framed photographs and a pair of table lamps. The wooden panels, by the way, mirror a fusion of Filipino and Balinese styles evident in the latticework and fretwork.

The same latticework is found in the kitchen cabinets, while the Balinese-inspired fretwork spruce up the fanlight above the bedrooms' windows, just beside their respective air conditioners.

Medicine's loss

Jie's entry into the world of interior design is a story in itself. He was already on his fourth year at the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery when he decided to quit and shift to fine arts. Medicine's loss became interior design's gain.

"I suddenly realized I didn't want to spend the rest of my life in such a depressing environment," says the frustrated obstetrician-gynecologist. "I've always had a knack for the arts despite my limited facility in drawing."

After graduating from PSID with flying colors, he topped the board exams given to interior designers later that year. When school officials saw his impressive transcript, including his background in psychology, it was only a matter of time before they offered him a teaching job.

"I didn't know I was any good at teaching until I tried it," he says. From substitute teacher, Jie quickly rose through the ranks to become one of the school's most sought-after and respected educators.

"Details are important," he says. "But there must be an underlying concept behind such details. Interior design is more than an art. It also has technical and intellectual sides to it." Especially if the space is cramped and its owners are brimming with ideas.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

JIE Pambid feels right at home.

Design school marks 35 years

THIS October, the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID) will mark its 35th anniversary with an interior design exhibit titled "Tribute: An Affair in Black & White." The exhibit will consist of works by the graduating students. It will also feature some of the prime movers of design in the country as well as the history of PSID.

The school will honor 35 personalities who have made significant contributions to the design industry and design education.

"Tribute" will center on 35 different types and looks of interiors done in black in white. Living areas, toilets and baths and foyers, even bars, cafés and the like will be viewed achromatically in different textures, scales and proportions. It could be an ethnic outdoor patio or an Oriental dining room. The possibilities are endless, from Asian contemporary interiors to Bauhaus minimalism—but in black and white.

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Davide dares US envoy to name corrupt judges

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

Gloria sees light as contraceptive

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday added one more prescription for birth control—and without doubt it will

GLORIA/A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Gov't plays good cop, bad cop with Reds

By Carlito Pablo and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE GOVERNMENT played good cop-bad cop on the issue of peace negotiations with communist rebels yesterday. The President vowed to use the "iron hand" to crush terrorism and rebellion,

GOV'T/A6

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Saturday, August 10, 2002 ★ 64 pages / 6 sections / vol.17 / no. 243 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

Pagcor to flood RP with slot machines

SC ruling bans joint gambling ventures

By John Nery

(First of three parts)

UNDER President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration, legalized gambling has shaken off the stigma of the Estrada years and emerged even stronger. Proof: The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., a government corporation directly under the Office of the President, has embarked on an ambitious expansion program. In particular, it has approved at least 20 arcade projects that will flood the country with thousands of additional slot machines.

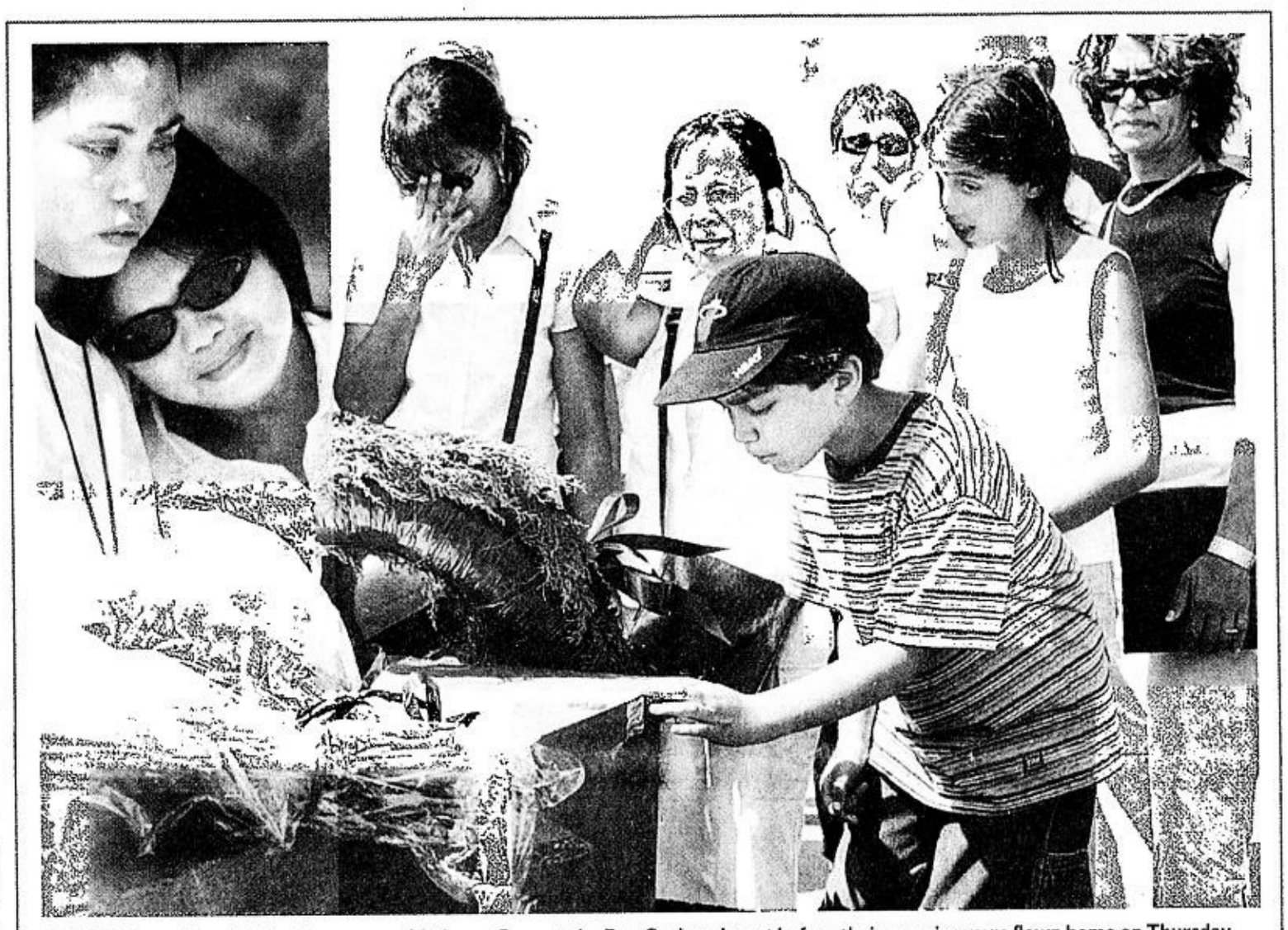
RISKY GAMBLE
An I-TEAM *Report*

One slot machine arcade opens for business this Monday—right inside the Baclaran LRT mall. It's not hard to miss; it's right beside the video arcade, separated only by a glass window.

The INQUIRER has obtained copies of five of the contracts, which involve a minimum of 1,030 slot machines, as well as a Pagcor report documenting the progress of a total of 11 contracts. These 11 slot machine arcades will add a total of some 2,000 slot machines to Pagcor's existing complement of 3,000.

Critics say the contracts raise

PAGCOR/A17



A FOND farewell to Adelina Cunanan and Rebecca Ruga at the Ben Gurion airport before their remains were flown home on Thursday. Mourners include overseas workers (inset) and the Israeli family whom Cunanan served for the past seven years. The two women were killed in a Palestinian suicide bomb attack of an Israeli bus last Sunday. Their bodies arrived last night. *(Arrival photo on Page A16.)* AFP

A business decision, says state gaming firm

"A BUSINESS decision."

A ranking official of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. yesterday strongly denied that anything was amiss in the government firm's expansion program, saying instead that it was part of a plan to make Pagcor a globally competitive player with high international standards.

Gryk Ortaleza, managing head for PR and advertising, said Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino had a "vision" for the company that it was closely following. We aim to be "a global corporation with a global mindset and a Filipino heart ... otherwise we will stagnate," he said.

He said the perception that slot machine arcades were completely new innovations was mistaken, because "slot machines are really extensions of the casinos." He emphasized that not just anybody could enter the arcades. "Very strict rules, especially pertaining to minors, are enforced."

He also defended the Pagcor board's decision to approve the arcade contracts on a 60-40 sharing basis. "It's a business decision," he said. He pointed out that the allegation that Pagcor does not need any business partners because of its impressive cash flow was erroneous. "In truth and in fact, at the end of the month, it's zero-zero for Pagcor. *Pagdating ng katapusan, labas lahat 'yan* (At the end of the month, all the money goes out of Pagcor and into government coffers)."

A BUSINESS/A17

Kintanar aides stalk Nida slay witness

By TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza

WHY is retired Gen. Galileo Kintanar, former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, tracking down a key witness in the Nida Blanca murder case?

Two security aides of Kintanar went to the rented home of the witness, Rogelio Salutin, last Sunday night looking for him, according to the policeman guarding the witness.

They failed to get any information on his whereabouts, PO3 Ranerio Cruz, escort for Salutin, said in an affidavit. A frightened Salutin went into hiding during the visit.

The armed Kintanar aides arrived on board a green Isuzu Crosswind (with Plate No. SFA-199), which had been traced to Isabela Gov. Benjamin Dy. Kintanar borrowed the vehicle from Dy, INQUIRER sources said.

One of the aides had a gun tucked at the waist, said Cruz,

KINTANAR/A16

GMA allies say: Stop parading suspects

By Rocky Nazareno, Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Christine Avendaño

EVEN President Macapagal-Arroyo's allies in the ruling Lakas-NUCD yesterday urged her to desist from presenting crime suspects to the public.

"I am behind the President in her stand against criminality, but I don't think presenting the crime suspects in Malacañang would be good. It could even backfire (on her)," Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said.

Sen. Juan Flavier cited the case of Land Bank of the Philippines cashier Acsa Ramirez, who was presented as one of the suspects in a P203-million tax diversion scam when it was she who had exposed it.

"It is sad to think that (presenting suspects to the media) can easily destroy one's reputation," he said.

The President has apparently agreed to at least stop parading crime suspects in Malacañang.

The compromise was reached the other day, when another presentation—of suspected kidnappers this time—that was to be held in Malacañang was in-

GMA/A16

SLOW ME DOWN, LORD
Taking a break from her hurried pace during a visit to Baras, Catanduanes, on Friday, President Macapagal makes an unscheduled stop for the silence and calmness of a church.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Palace cool to Guingona; Mike fumes

By Dona Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG yesterday took in stride Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.'s barbed remarks against President Macapagal-Arroyo, but the First Gentleman apparently was not in on the game plan.

While Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Palace was taking the Vice President's views "constructively," Mike Arroyo described Guingona as "left leaning" and his constituency as "communists."

Guingona told foreign correspondents on Thursday that the President's all-out support to the US could drag the country into the impending US war against Iraq.

He said contrary to the President's claim, the Philippines may not be able to avail itself of the $1 billion US "Millennium Challenge" aid.

He also criticized the President's declaration of war against communist rebels.

PALACE/A6

Davide dares US envoy to name corrupt judges

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE CLAIM of US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone last month that the Philippine judiciary is tainted with corruption has finally drawn an expression of outrage from the Supreme Court.

Speaking through Supreme Court Deputy Court Administrator Ismael Khan, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. challenged Ricciardone to name names and said the tribunal had not been remiss in imposing sanctions on erring lawyers, prosecutors and magistrates.

"The Chief Justice was, of course, dismayed by the way you were quoted in the media," Khan said in a letter to Ricciardone dated Aug. 5, which he wrote as spokesperson of the high court and "on instructions" of Davide.

As though implying that US interests had always enjoyed protection in the country, he said the envoy should prove if an American citizen or firm had been "discriminated against under the justice system in the Philippines."

Ricciardone remarked on supposed corruption in the country, especially in the judiciary, in a speech before members of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines last July 15.

Wire reports quoted him as saying that the primary barrier to foreign investments in the

DAVIDE/A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2002

Second FRONT PAGE

Bishop slams 'jueteng' bribe try

By Norman Bordadora

THE FORMER president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has denounced the attempts of big-time illegal gambling operators in northern Luzon to bribe the Church in Pangasinan province with donations for the various parishes.

"You know my longstanding moral stance and pastoral policy against gambling. And this will not change ever. I need not say more," Pangasinan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said in a letter addressed to the province's priests, sisters and religious organizations as he rejected the potential windfall from jueteng, the illegal numbers game.

In a circular letter that will be read from the pulpits in Pangasinan today and tomorrow, Cruz revealed that he had been approached by several individuals and asked if the archdiocese would be willing to receive money from illegal gambling.

He said that illegal gambling operators in the region were planning to intensify their operations in Pangasinan and nearby areas.

"Jueteng is now in the process of being syndicated by big time operators with the help of individuals on their payroll," Cruz said in the letter.

"The immediate target appears to be central Pangasinan for a start because this is where there is more money to steal," he said.

Payrolls for those on the take, including government officials and Church people, are already being prepared, he said.

"There will be stolen money for public officials, NGOs, media practitioners, for charitable works, and even for the Church's parish projects and apostolic works," he said.

CRUZ: Gambling lords in northern Luzon out to bribe the Church in Pangasinan.

Speaking with reporters at the CBCP head offices in Manila, Cruz said that powerful individuals were behind the jueteng operations in Pangasinan.

Now that he has rejected the bribe attempt, Cruz is concerned about his safety.

He said the individuals who had approached him had asked how much money was needed to buy his silence.

"What they will say and do next, I honestly don't know," he said.

He enjoined the Catholic faithful in Pangasinan not to waste their hard-earned money on jueteng.

"If you lose, this is expected. If you win, you steal," Cruz said.

The prelate also asked government officials, media practitioners and Church people not to accept money from jueteng operators.

"This is stolen money from dirty stealing hands with dirty intentions to steal more," Cruz said.

"Please continue praying for the peace of our province, for the conversion of the jueteng capitalist, and for my safety in God's loving hands," he said.

Ople assures safety of Filipinos in ME

By Christine Herrera

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Blas Ople yesterday described the situation in Iraq as "tense" but he assured that that the Philippine Embassies in the Middle East have drawn up contingency plans for 1.3 million Filipinos there.

In case conflict breaks out between the United States and Iraq, Ople said contingency measures are in place to safeguard the welfare of Filipinos.

Ople said there were only 147 Filipinos in Iraq, 23 of whom were personnel of the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad and their families.

"Most of the other Filipinos in that country are working for United Nations agencies and international organization or for other diplomats, and thus belong to categories of workers that might be able to fend for themselves," Ople said.

He said majority of the 1.3 million Filipinos, or some 800,000, are concentrated in Saudi Arabia. The rest as scattered in Kuwait and other Middle Eastern countries.

"While concern over the safety of their relatives in Baghdad and Northern Iraq is understandable, outright fears may be somewhat misplaced because contingency measures are in place," Ople said.

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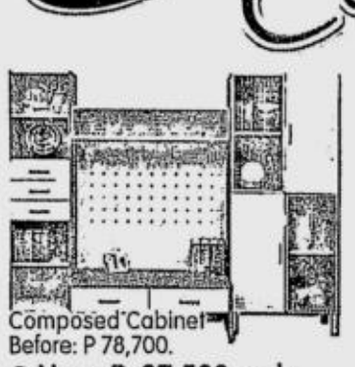
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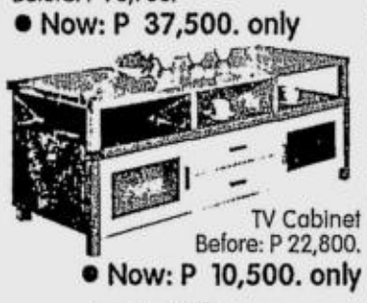
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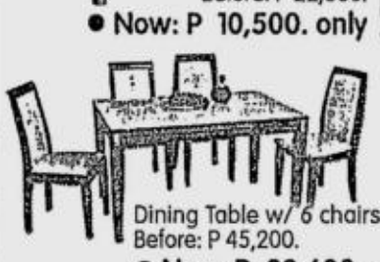
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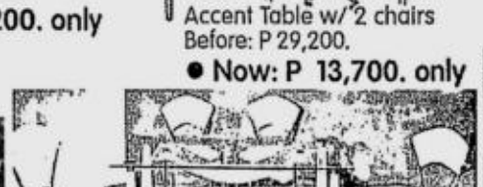
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Ombudsman gives Laurel more time

By Volt Contreras

DESPITE the go-signal from the Supreme Court, the Office of the Ombudsman is not filing criminal charges against former Vice President Salvador Laurel just yet.

A spokesman for the anti-graft agency yesterday said a probe panel might take up till the month's end to weigh "an extended counter-affidavit" that Laurel had sent the Ombudsman in connection with the 1998 Centennial Expo scam.

Lawyer Jose De Jesus said Laurel had filed the affidavit last month while seeking "clarification" regarding the SC ruling of July 1, which declared that the ex-VP, when he chaired the National Centennial Commission, was a public official under the Ombudsman's jurisdiction.

In a two-page resolution last Wednesday, the high court's First Division affirmed the ruling and denied Laurel's motion for being "irrelevant."

This cleared the way for the Ombudsman to sue Laurel for "undue injury" that he allegedly caused the government by awarding the contract for Freedom Ring—the amphitheater at the Expo Filipino Centennial Park in Pampanga—to a private party "without the benefit of a competitive public bidding."

De Jesus revealed that, during the watch of retired Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, there had already been an "initial finding" of probable cause to charge Laurel with graft before the Sandiganbayan.

Laurel's first counter-plea, according to the spokesman, had merely raised the issue of jurisdiction and touched little on the charges themselves.

But after the SC ruled that he could now be investigated by the Ombudsman, De Jesus added, Laurel filed the "extended affidavit" with a more elaborate defense.

Laurel protested the Wednesday ruling yesterday, saying it had evaded the "crucial" issue that Expocorp, which implemented and executed the Centennial flagship project, Expo Filipino, was a private corporation. As such, he insisted, the Ombudsman had no jurisdiction over it.

Expocorp was initially organized in 1996 as a government-owned joint venture corporation.

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Macau arrests 600 linked to fake RP driving license scam

HONG KONG—Macau graft busters have arrested some 600 people suspected of having connections with a syndicate responsible for producing fake Philippine driving licenses, an anti-graft spokesman said Friday.

Of those arrested, 417 were charged for providing fake Philippine licenses to motorists applying for driving licenses in Macau for up to 10,000 patacas (US$1,284), Wang Chi-hou, a spokesman for the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), told AFP.

Wang said of the 417 snared, some were staff from the transport department while an official from the civil and municipal affairs department was alleged to have been one of the six masterminds behind the syndicate.

Forged Philippine licenses issued by the gang were used to obtain genuine Macau ones with the alleged assistance of staff from the relevant government department, he said.

Wang said over 600 people were suspected of having obtained Macau driving licenses, despite the majority having never visited the Philippines nor could they speak any Philippine dialect or English.

The case came to the notice of the Macanese anti-graft body after a string of car accidents involving drivers who were found to have obtained Macau driving licenses through the syndicate. *AFP*

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Bodies of 2 suicide bombing victims arrive in Manila

By N. Bordadora

THE FAMILIES of the two overseas Filipino workers who were killed in a suicide bomb blast in Israel on Aug. 4 will receive a windfall in financial grants and other benefits from the Israeli government, the Israeli embassy said yesterday.

In death, Adelina Cunanan and Rebecca Ruga were honored by the country they had left behind to work as caregivers in Israel.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself led foreign affairs and labor officials in receiving their remains which arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on board a Lufthansa flight at 7.30 p.m. last night.

The President joined the grieving families at the tarmac as the caskets were lowered from the plane.

About a dozen members of Cunanan's family led by her mother, Ines Lagunilla, and daughter, Gladys Cunanan, were on hand to receive her body.

Ruga's remains were received by her brothers, Eleazar and Ardel, and a few other relatives.

The two workers' families are to receive P200,000 each from the Overseas Worker and Welfare Administration and P50,000 each from the President.

They will also receive lump sum grants and monthly US-dollar pensions from the Israeli government.

In a news conference earlier yesterday, Roi Dvir, charge d'affaires of the Israeli embassy in Manila, expressed his government's condolences to Cunanan's and Ruga's families and to the Filipino people. He assured the two OFWs' families of the Israeli state's commitment to extend financial assistance to them.

Israeli legislation provides for lucrative compensation to be given documented foreign nationals who become victims of terrorist attacks in the country.

In the past two years, Dvir said, more than 600 Israelis have been killed in 235 terrorist activities.

Three overseas Filipino workers, including Ruga and Cunanan, have been killed and 10 injured during that period.

"We must cooperate in the fight against terrorism. The Palestinian Authority and its chairman, Yasser Arafat, have done nothing so far in order to stop this terror. The Palestinians will gain nothing by terror," Dvir said.

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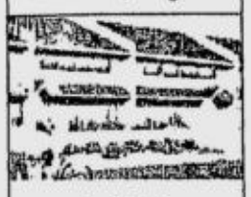

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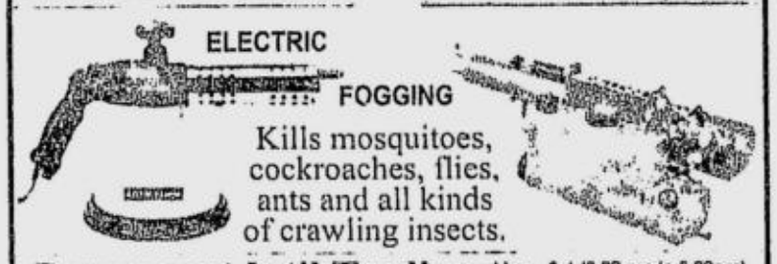

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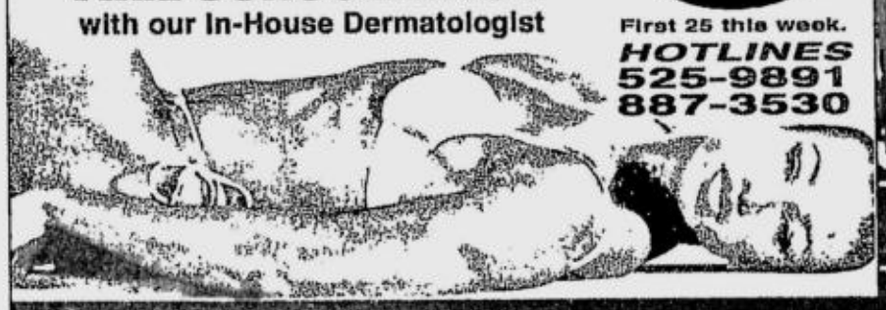

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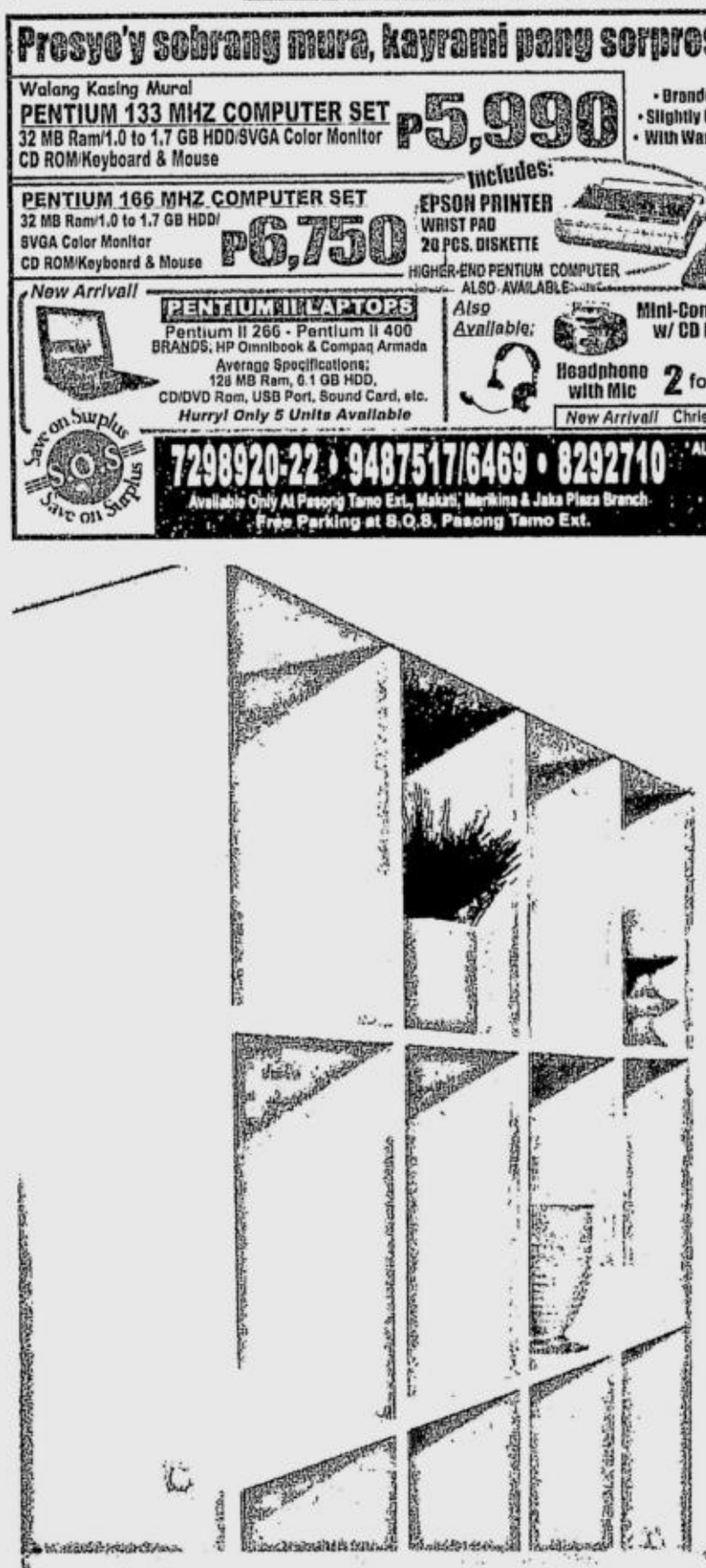

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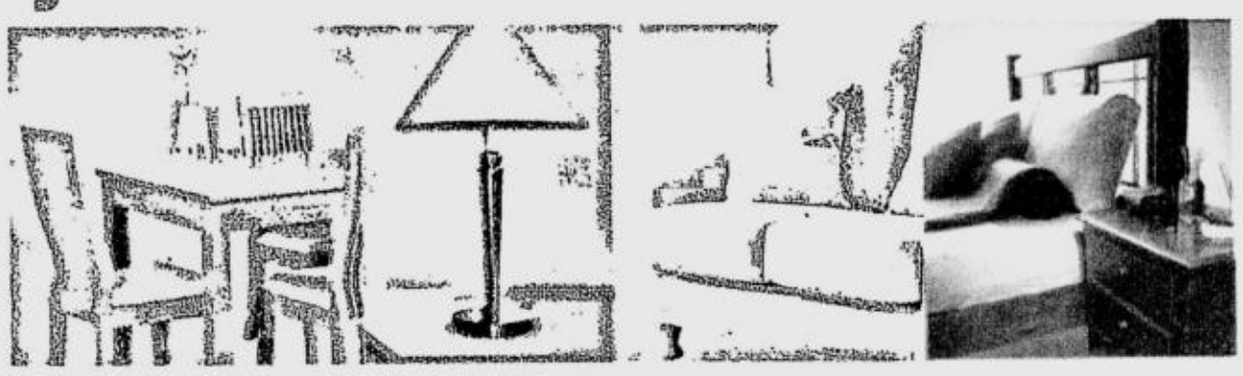

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12 outstanding teachers picked from a field of 222 contenders

SCHEDULED for presentation to President Macapagal-Arroyo and the whole nation are 12 exceptional teachers.

They are this year's winners of Metrobank Foundation's annual Search for Outstanding Teachers, chosen from a field of 222 contenders representing both public and private schools in all of the country's 16 regions.

There are five awardees in the elementary school level, four in the high school level and, for the first time, three in the college level. They were chosen for "outstanding contributions to the teaching profession and instructional competence," as well as for "personal integrity and character," and "community involvement."

From Benguet to Zamboanga, they will congregate in Manila next month for a two-part celebration. On September 2, the President will meet with them in Malacañang, during which they will be conferred gold medallions.

Four days later, the formal awarding ceremonies at the Metrobank Plaza will highlight festivities for the bank's 40th anniversary. The awardees will each receive a trophy and a cash prize of P125,000. Another P25,000 each will go to their schools.

The elementary level teacher-awardees are: Gloria G. Tutica of President Manuel A. Roxas Memorial School, Roxas City; Norma B. Ubaldo, Batangas City East Elementary School (a first for this city); Agapita A. Nery, Tanauan South Central School, Tanauan City (another first); Ruth A. Larracas, Isabelo de los Reyes Elementary School, Manila; and Victoria M. Francisco, Zamboanga East Central School, Zamboanga City.

High school-winners are: Rosanni L. Palma, Sorsogon National High School, Sorsogon City; Luzviminda B. Chan, Aloran Trade High School in Aloran, Misamis Occidental (also a first for the province); Maria Jesusa C. Despojo, Dumaguete City High School; and Erlinda D.G. Antaran of the Makati Science High School.

The three first-ever awardees in the college level are: Leoncio P. Deriada, University of the Philippines Visayas in Miag-ao, Iloilo; Dr. T. Valentino S. Sitoy, Jr, the Central Visayas Polytechnic College, Dumaguete City; and Dr. Lita M. Colting, Benguet State University in La Trinidad, Benguet.

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Education Secretary Raul S. Roco was chairperson of the board of judges. The final selection committee consisted of: Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno of the Supreme Court; Congressman Edmundo O. Reyes of the Lone District of Marinduque, chairman of the House Committee on Education and Culture; Chairperson Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe of the Professional Regulation Commission; Mayor Francis N. Tolentino of Tagaytay City, president of the League of Cities of the Philippines; Dr. Rosita L. Navarro, president of Centro Escolar University; Cesar V. Purisima, chairman and managing partner of SGV and Co.; and Paulynn P. Sicam, former Commissioner on Human Rights and 1999 Ninoy Aquino Fellow in Journalism.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, August 10, 2002
Laurence, Deacon & Martyr

1st Reading: 2 Cor 9:6-10
Gospel: Jn 12:24-26

Jesus said to his discples, "Truly, I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

"Those who love their life destroy it, and those who despise their life in this world keep it for everlasting life.

"Whoever wants to serve me, let him follow me and wherever I am, there shall my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him."

Commentary

The document "Ecclesia in Asia" defines the mission of the Church in our continent as "service to life." The gospel of John presents Jesus' mission under the theme "that they may have life and life in abundance." We Christians are to safeguard and promote life in all its forms. Extreme poverty dehumanizes, greed creates violence, hatred kills many persons. The paradox of today's gospel is that it seems that we can be of "service to life" if we die to ourselves (Jn 12:24), and that only through humble service to others can we obtain a "place of honor" that the Father will grant to faithful servants. St. Laurence, deacon and martyr, and our own St. Lorenzo Ruiz have shown us an example of how to serve life by offering themselves wholeheartedly to Christ and his Church's mission.

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RP faces dilemma over membership in Int'l Crime Court

By Christine Herrera

IF the Philippines joined the International Criminal Court, the Unites States might not release the $30 million it earlier promised the government in military assistance.

This was Vice-President Teofisto Guingona Jr's warning yesterday, even as Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople announced that the Cabinet Committee on Internal Security was debating the country's inclusion in the ICC.

The ICC, a handiwork of over one thousand civil society organizations around the world, was created pursuant to the Rome Statute, adopted on July 17, 1998.

But the treaty is being opposed by the United States because the court could try abuses committed by American soldiers and officials elsewhere in the world, including the Philippines.

Ople said after the debates in the Cabinet committee, which included the Defense, Justice and Foreign Affairs departments, the treaty would be submitted to the Senate for ratification.

He stressed that the $30 million had nothing to do with the ICC ratification.

Guingona, Ople's predecessor at the DFA, was unconvinced. He said the US had threatened to revoke military assistance to any country that joined the ICC, and that this could include the promised assistance to the Philippine military.

Under House Resolution 4775 pending approval by President Bush, Guingona said, the US government had earmarked $387 million for foreign military assistance. The $30 million is included in the resolution, also known as Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 as amended, Guingona said.

The bill withheld US military assistance to any country that was a party to the ICC. He said, the bill contained a list of countries—including Japan, Jordan, Argentina, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and Taiwan—to whom the US might continue to grant military assistance despite the prohibition. "The Philippines is not in the list," Guingona pointed out.

Just the same, he endorsed the treaty for ratification. The international court, he explained, would have jurisdiction over perpetrators of genocide, war crimes, and other offenses that threatened peace and security, including acts that might be characterized as terrorism or aggression.

The US "strongly" rejected the treaty, Guingona added, because American officials and soldiers could be prosecuted by the ICC even when they merely "responded to acts of terrorism."

Another point of objection, he said, was the fact that any member of a multi-national peace-keeping force operating in a country would be covered by the treaty even if that country was not a member of the ICC.

Further, he said, "An American being prosecuted by the ICC would be denied procedural protection provided by the US Bill of Rights. This negates the US policy of prosecuting their own nationals."

He said the Philippines was among 120 countries that voted in favor of the treaty when he was still DFA chief. Seven countries including the US voted against it, he said, and 21 abstained.

"Are not the aims of both the Philippines and the US the same? Do they not both wish to punish perpetrators against genocide, war crimes and offenses against humankind?" Guingona asked.

Ople said he was also inclined, although "in a personal capacity," to recommend the ratification of the treaty.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—*Ex parte* affidavit—The general rule has always been that discrepancies between the statements of the witness in his affidavit and those he makes on the witness stand do not necessarily discredit him because it is a matter of judicial experience that an Affidavit taken *ex partesi* almost always incomplete and often inaccurate. The exceptions thereto, which impair the credibility of the witness, are: (1) when the narration in the sworn statement substantially contradicts the testimony in court, or (2) when the omission in the affidavit refers to a very important detail of the incident that one relating the incident as an eyewitness cannot be expected to fail to mention. The point of inquiry is whether the contradictions are important and substantial, and in this case, the Court finds the contradictions touching on important and substantial matters. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Carpio, Third Division, People v. Narvaez, G. R. No. 140759, January 24, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VILLA

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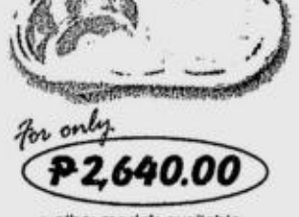

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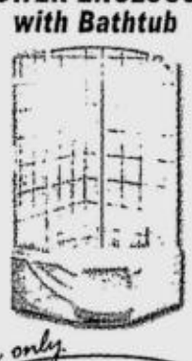

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Special barangay, SK polls slated in Abu areas today

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE COMMISSION on Elections will hold special barangay and youth elections in 46 barangays of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga Sibugay.

The regular elections last July 15 in the said areas were derailed by the conduct of the RP-US Balikatan joint military exercises and operations against Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The areas where special elections will be held are:

• Basilan—barangay Guinanta and Sangkahan in Tipo-Tipo; and barangay Manaul in Sumisip where Sangguniang Kabataan elections will take in all precincts;

• Sulu—10 barangays in Talipao town; four barangays in Siasi; barangay Kabbon in Pandami; barangay Hawan in Tapul; barangay Patao in Maimbung; barangay Pangdan-Pangdan in Kalinggalang Caluang; barangay Bato-Bato in Indanan; and barangays Alu Duyong and Alu Busbus in Lugus;

• Tawi-Tawi—five barangays in Tandubas; barangay Sumangat in Bonga; barangay Dallo-Dalo in Sapa-Sapa; and

• Zamboanga Sibugay—barangay Pamansaan in Mabuhay town.

The poll body will also resume today the stalled counting of votes in 12 barangays in Sulu.

The Comelec said the resumption of counting and canvassing will be done in 12 barangays in the municipality of Parang and in barangay Kan Lagay and Tungol in the municipality of Kalinggalang Caluang.

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Davide dares US envoy to name corrupt judges

From page A1

country was "corruption, not just regarding the courts but also officials" outside the judiciary.

"Foreign investors have complained about that to me and to other ambassadors here (such that) we have a real problem here," he was quoted as saying. "They want to make sure that foreigners and Filipinos alike and their Filipino partners can have equal access to the courts, to be assured of timely justice, that it is not corrupted by people who work outside this system" or within it.

But Khan said these remarks were contrary to the sentiments Ricciardone had earlier conveyed to Davide.

"It seemed to him that you have forgotten what he told you when you paid him a courtesy call on 21 March 2002, that the Supreme Court has been vigorously addressing, and continues to do so, the issue of corruption in the judiciary," Khan said, adding:

"To this end, the Supreme Court has dismissed from the service, suspended from office, or fined scores of judges, including an associate justice of the Court of Appeals, as well as other court officials and personnel for dishonesty, ignorance of the law, immorality and other forms of malfeasance or misfeasance in office."

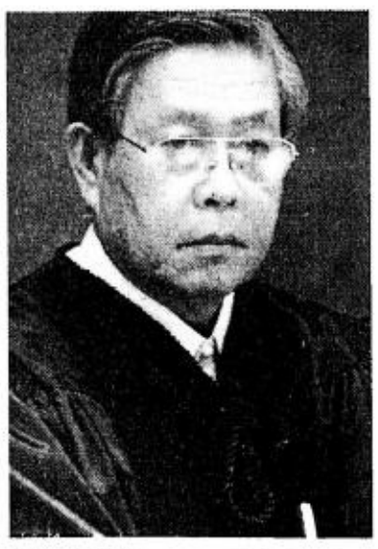
Details

Khan urged Ricciardone to "give the details of your allegations of corruption" in the judiciary, saying "the Chief Justice is desirous of obtaining details thereof in the highest interest of justice and fairness not only to the judiciary but also the Philippines and your government."

Ricciardone was asked to provide:

• The specific cases wherein any justice, judge or court official discriminated against any American citizen, natural or juridical.

• The specific cases where a justice, judge or court official demanded, or was suspected of having demanded, money or any other consideration to obtain a decision in favor of or against an American litigant.



DAVIDE: Give specific details.

RICCIARDONE: Real problem

• A list of lawyers who have appeared for an American litigant against whom a "bribe" decision may have been obtained in favor of or against an American litigant.

Khan said Ricciardone should also provide the high court a list of American businessmen or corporations, partnerships, joint ventures, etc. "who or which have withdrawn their investments in the Philippines or have desisted from investing in the Philippines exclusively on the basis of corruption in the judiciary."

He asked Ricciardone as well for a list of those Americans supposedly discriminated against under the Philippine justice system, with an indication whether this was done before or after the ambassador assumed office in the country.

He said Ricciardone's "favorable action on this request as soon as possible will go a long, long way in demonstrating your adherence to the elementary virtue of fairness and in assisting the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice in their campaign to purge the judiciary of scalawags and misfits."

Aggressive action

Khan pointed out that since Davide took over in 1998, the Office of the Chief Justice had been aggressive in addressing perceived corruption in the judiciary.

He said that since 1999, the tribunal had penalized 352 judges for various offenses, and that at least 22 were dismissed from service, including Court of Appeals Associate Justice Demetrio Demetria, and 19, including two Sandiganbayan justices, were relieved or suspended.

He also said the Chief Justice had also launched the tribunal's Action Program for Judicial Reform, "which includes various components, to achieve Davide's vision of a judiciary that is independent, effective and efficient and worthy of public trust and confidence."

According to Khan, Davide had earlier even urged Ricciardone to inform him of any dishonest and improper conduct committed by court officials against an American citizen or US interests.

Palace cool to Guingona . . .

From page A1

The remarks of Guingona, who was eased out as foreign secretary last month due to "policy differences" with the President, drew a polite reaction from the Palace.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople was just as diplomatic. He made no comment on Guingona's statements except that "we do not want to meddle into the affairs of the American government, just like we don't want them to meddle in our affairs."

But the reaction from the golf course, where the First Gentleman was playing, was anything but diplomatic.

"His constituency are the communists," said the fuming Arroyo in an interview with ABC 5 television, which chanced upon him at the Wack Wack golf club in Mandaluyong. He described Guingona as left-leaning, not a nationalist.

He also took up the cudgels for the President, who drew criticisms for her handling of suspected criminals, saying there was nothing wrong with presenting them to the media.

War vs crime

"It is a war against criminality," he said.

He also blamed media for giving too much publicity to the Kimberly Clark issue.

"Niloloko lang kayo ng media. Hindi yun kuryente (Media is taking you for a ride. It was not a bum steer)," he said.

He was referring to a portion in the President's State of the Nation Address wherein she claimed Kimberly Clark had pulled out of the country and transferred its operation to Thailand.

But an official of the American firm denied pulling out of the country, according to Bunye himself.

On Guingona's first press conference since quitting as foreign secretary, Bunye said he "was just expressing his sentiments."

Bunye said the country's two top officials' personal relationship had not soured.

He said the President's offer to Guingona to be the Mindanao czar still stands.

'Guingona exaggerating'

"I don't think that would be consistent with the speculation that the relationship has soured," Bunye said.

He said Guingona was exaggerating the country's possible involvement in the imminent US war against Iraq.

"If you look at the situation realistically, I don't think it would come to that, that we'll be dragged into this war. We are not automatically part of any conflict," he said, adding that the country has "very cordial relations" with Iraq.

As for the US aid, Bunye said Guingona may have been misinformed. ***With reports from Nancy Carvajal***

Gov't plays good cop, bad cop with Reds

From page A1

at the same time her negotiators were assuring the public that the stalled peace talks were back on track.

"Because of the problem of terrorism and rebellion, we need an iron hand for a strong leadership to impose existing laws, discipline and order," the President said in Filipino during a speech at the town fiesta celebration of Baras, Catanduanes.

In statements from The Netherlands, communist leaders denounced Malacañang's hardline stance, with communist party founder Jose Ma. Sison saying he was having second thoughts about the peace talks.

In her speech, President Macapagal-Arroyo rallied local residents to help defend law and order, noting that Catanduanes was among the areas threatened by the presence of the New People's Army, the military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Ms Macapagal noted that she wanted to visit a site in Bagamanoc town where there had been an encounter between government forces and NPA guerrillas last July but did not push through with the plan.

"It's hard for a President to just go there without soldiers having been first pre-positioned," she said. "That's proof that there is something to prepare for here in Catanduanes."

But government peace panel chair Silvestre Bello III said in a phone interview that he talked with National Democratic Front chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni over the phone on Thursday and that communist rebels were "open" to the resumption of "back-channel talks."

"Mr. Jalandoni even suggested the time for back-channeling," Bello said in a phone interview. "It may happen either at the end of August or second week of September."

Bello noted that based on his phone conversation with The Netherlands-based Jalandoni, "the other side is responding to our overtures for peace."

Harsh words

From The Netherlands, however, the leaders of the rebellion responded in kind to the President's harsh words.

Sison, CPP founding chair, declared that the NDF national council was now re-examining its policy of negotiating peace with the government.

Sison said the NDF is considering whether to terminate the peace talks or hold them in abeyance until the Macapagal administration is replaced by another willing to negotiate in accordance with The Hague Joint Declaration and other agreements.

Jalandoni had strong words for the peace overtures made Thursday by Bello and House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

"Speaker of the House Jose de Venecia and GRP Negotiating Panel Chairman Silvestre Bello are deceiving the public when they try to create the illusion that a comprehensive peace agreement can be completed in a short time," Jalandoni said in response to an e-mail query made by the INQUIRER in Lucena City.

"The comprehensive agreement on political and constitutional reforms has to be tackled. All these cannot be rushed," he stressed.

The Bello panel is rushing the completion of a proposed "final peace agreement" with the rebels on Aug. 16-17, the draft of which will be first presented to the President.

The panel met early this week amid the exchange of bellicose statements between the government and NDF leaders.

In declaring war against communist rebels last Aug. 5, President Macapagal said that her campaign against terrorism does not distinguish between ordinary terrorists and those who espouse a political ideology.

The President also said previously that her definition of terrorist includes those who "terrorize" factories, an apparent reference to militant trade unions.

The military has consistently referred to communist rebels as "dissident terrorists."

Playing safe

In Camp Aguinaldo, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes belittled Sison's claim that he was merely making an analysis when he said that the NPA would intensify their attacks on military installations, including power transmission lines, in response to the government's call for a "total war" against communists.

According to Reyes, Sison had to distance himself from the order so that the CPP founder would not be labeled a "terrorist," which could prompt his expulsion from the Netherlands.

"Iwas-pusoy lang yan (He's playing it safe) because if he accepts that what he is really doing is directing the NPAs, then he will be ejected from The Netherlands," Reyes told defense reporters yesterday at the AFP Medical Center where he unveiled a mural depicting the heroism of the Filipino soldier.

"He wants to direct the operations here but he doesn't want the responsibility . . . He will be labeled a terrorist and he will be rejected from The Netherlands . . . He actually gives the order for the NPAs but he doesn't want to take the responsibility for it," he said.

After the President on Monday ordered the military to shift its battalions from Abu Sayyaf territory to communist-influenced areas, Sison the next day called on the NPA to step up its attacks on military installations, including power lines.

The following day, however, Sison clarified that he had merely been making an analysis.

Reyes to blame

Yesterday, Sison took Reyes to task, saying the defense chief and former Armed Forces chief of staff was actually responsible for the government's all-out war approach to the communist insurgency. He called on President Macapagal to assert her political will over Reyes.

"So long as Ms Macapagal is afraid to assert her office and exercise her political will over him, Reyes will always be able to paralyze the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations and give full rein to his mania for all-out war and his pipe dream of annihilating or forcing the capitulation of the revolutionary forces and the people," Sison said in a statement from The Hague.

Sison described Ms Macapagal as "a rabid implementor of the dictates of the United States and she follows the baton of Gen. Angelo Reyes." He said Reyes had been assigned by the United States to act "as her handler."

"It has become obvious that he (Reyes) is her superior in policy-making regarding military affairs and the peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines)," Sison said.

He recalled that in the course of the now suspended GRP-NDFP peace talks, the communists have observed that Ms Macapagal does not act as the political leader and commander in chief of Reyes.

"She has acted more like his subordinate. We have known a number of times when she gave her go signal to the GRP negotiating panel but Reyes reversed her decision," Sison pointed out.

The top communist leader chided Ms Macapagal for having been "oblivious of the fact that it was Gen. Angelo Reyes, then chief of staff of the reactionary Armed Forces, who pushed his compadre Estrada to carry out a costly all-out war policy against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and make the budgetary deficit rise by more than P20 billion within a few months."

"Now, Reyes has one more President to manipulate and make a fool of," he added.

Optimistic scenario

But in Congress, Speaker De Venecia waxed optimistic about the eventual success of the stalled peace talks. He said he wanted to see Sison's eventual participation, together with that of the CPP-NDF, in the country's political life.

"The moment they sign the peace agreement, that's what's going to happen," De Venecia said in a phone interview.

De Venecia said cessation of hostilities and demobilization of insurgent forces were the "final target" of the peace negotiations with the communist-led NDF.

De Venecia said he had mentioned the possibility of participating in future elections to Sison during one of his meetings with the CPP founder in Utrecht, The Netherlands, where Sison and other NDF leaders are living in self-exile.

"I have mentioned that to him as an option," De Venecia said, adding that Sison was likely to have discussed this proposal with his comrades.

The Speaker, who had been holding back-channel talks with Sison's group, said the government should also consider granting travel papers and a safe-conduct pass to Sison "once the venue of the peace talk shifts to Manila."

De Venecia had expressed optimism that a final peace agreement will be signed with the NDF "in the next few months."

He said this was because the government and NDF panels were in the final stages of signing three preliminary agreements that would form part of the final peace settlement.

De Venecia said it was only a matter of time before the final peace agreement can be signed. The Speaker said the three agreements include economic, political and electoral reforms and cessation of hostilities and demobilization of forces.

He said these three agreements are the only remaining "stumbling blocks" to the signing of a permanent peace accord with the NDF.

But De Venecia acknowledged that cessation of hostilities and demobilization of forces were very ticklish issues that would be tackled last by the two panels.

De Venecia said the revival of the anti-subversion law can be considered as a "possible course of action" by the government if hostilities continue to erupt between government forces and communist insurgents.

"But I am optimistic the longing for permanent peace will prevail and we will be able to have a final peace agreement with the NDF in the next few months," De Venecia said.

In San Fernando City, members of the clergy in Northern Luzon called on the government and the NDF to go back to the negotiating table.

In Sto. Tomas, Batangas, about 25 members of the pro-government National Alliance of Democracy staged a picket in front of the Bayan Muna regional headquarters, denouncing the party-list group as a front for communist rebels. ***With reports from Martin Marfil, Juliet Javellana; Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

$17-M deposit taken out amid freeze order

By Donna S. Cueto

THE $17 million in Swiss deposits of Marcos energy minister Geronimo Velasco and his associates had been either transferred or withdrawn from the Union Bancaire Privee (UBP) even while a court-ordered freeze on the funds was supposedly in effect, the Presidential Commission on Good Government said yesterday.

The PCGG was apparently trying to explain a wire report that appeared in the INQUIRER yesterday in which the Swiss district attorney had confirmed that the $17 million had been released in June.

The PCGG explained that the UBP had already reported to the Zurich Court of Appeals that the funds that were supposedly frozen were gone.

The report to the Zurich appeals court was made shortly after the PCGG filed its appeal in April questioning the lifting of the freeze order by Zurich district attorney and investigating magistrate Dieter Jann.

First freeze order

Jann first ordered the lifting of the freeze order on Feb. 6. Upon the PCGG's motion for reconsideration, he upheld his decision unfreezing the funds on March 12.

However, he gave the Philippine government 30 days, or until April 12, within which to file an appeal with the Zurich appeals court.

The PCGG did file its appeal on April 10, two days before the April 12 deadline. The Zurich court promptly ordered the continuous freeze of the funds on April 12.

But it seems that despite the freeze, the money had been moved from the Swiss bank, a PCGG official said.

The situation is pretty ironic, said the official who requested anonymity.

"There was a freeze order but without any money to freeze," he said.

Where's the money?

The problem for the PCGG now is tracing where the $17 million crony funds went.

The PCGG said it had already filed, through its Swiss lawyer, a motion with the Zurich high court asking it to direct the bank to produce documents and proof on the funds being gone.

All that the UBP would say was that it had "no control over the funds."

"Where is the money?" the PCGG official asked.

The funds are under the names of Velasco, his nephew Alfredo de Borja, and his secretary Carmencita Clavecilla.

Until Dec. 31, 2001, the Velasco funds at the UBP, under the name of the Necktie and Andrews Foundation, were worth $15,519,972. The deposits under Clavecilla's name amounted to $551,544, while the funds of De Borja reached $921,532 as of last year.

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez said the PCGG should file a separate motion asking for a "certification from the UBP as to the amount and whereabouts of the deposits."

"It could just be a wild goose chase," he said.

Chavez said it would appear that there was a "deep freeze over a vacuum."

"The lawyers of Velasco and company must be doubling over with laughter. The Philippine government representatives are like dogs going around in circles," he said.

'Absolute prescription'

Explaining why he lifted the freeze order on the funds, Jann said that "absolute prescription" had already set in under Swiss law for "criminal acts" concerning ill-gotten wealth that happened before 1985.

This was why he lifted the freeze order on Feb. 6, and again on March 12, when he denied the PCGG's motion for reconsideration.

The lifting of the freeze did not take effect from Feb. 6 to March 12, while the motion for reconsideration was pending with Jann. It was also not put in force from March 12 to April 12, the 30-day waiting period for the filing of the PCGG appeal against Jann's decision.

On April 12, two days after the PCGG filed its appeal questioning Jann's two rulings of Feb. 6 and March 12, the appellate court issued an order maintaining the freeze on the Velasco, De Borja and Clavecilla deposits while the PCGG appeal was being heard in court.

Velasco's income

The PCGG said that Velasco's income while he was energy minister from 1974 to 1984 could not have supported the $5,007,696.19 funds that he deposited in five separate accounts in the American Express Bank Switzerland, the precursor bank of the UBP, from Oct. 17, 1983 to Nov. 21, 1983.

His declared income for that period only amounted to P6,101,810.39. Moreover, in his statement of assets and liabilities for the year 1984, Velasco declared total assets amounting to only P11,292,000, and investments worth P7,818,000.

Velasco, using the codename "Slammer," deposited $1 million on Nov. 10, 1983 at the American Express Bank in Switzerland in his account number Z-8752.

He was to open four more accounts: for Erlinda F. Velasco, with the codename "Brassy" and account number Z-8753, $1 million was deposited on Oct. 17, 1983; for son Jose Miguel F. Velasco, codename "Wedge" with account number Z-88034, $1,007,696.19 was deposited on Nov. 21, 1983; for Ma. Paz V. Laperal, codename "Putter" with account number Z-88035, another $1 million was deposited on Oct. 21, 1983; and for Urbano L. Velasco, codename "Driver" with account number Z-88036, $1 million was also deposited on the same date, Oct. 21, 1983.

Account agreement

The accounts were opened jointly by Velasco with these individuals.

The PCGG got a copy of the account agreement with the American Express Bank covering each of the bank accounts. These became part of the evidence that the PCGG used against these Marcos cronies.

In its forfeiture petition filed against Velasco with the justice department, the PCGG said that Velasco had declared that he was acting for himself when he opened the accounts.

Reyes to hold talks with Rumsfeld in US

By Martin P. Marfil

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes flies today to the United States to meet with US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

The purpose of the meeting is to strengthen the country's defense relations with Washington, the defense secretary said.

Reyes is making the trip amid an ongoing national debate over the presence of US troops in the country and the controversy generated by a proposed Mutual Logistics Support Agreement with the United States.

Reyes said he and Rumsfeld would be discussing the broad range of the entire Philippine-US defense and security relationship.

"We will discuss the way ahead for RP-US security relations and follow through the President's directive to enhance the strategic partnership between the Philippines and the US," he said.

The Unites States earlier announced that it would be giving the Philippine government a $55-million anti-terrorism fund.

Reyes said $25 million of the fund would be used to train "Light Reaction Companies" to be used against the communist New People's Army.

"We have definite ideas on how to allocate the $25 million," he said yesterday.

How the remaining $30 million would be used was still under discussion, he said, while acknowledging the money was "for the fight against global terrorism primarily."

REYES: We will discuss RP-US security relations

DND hires US lobby firm

By Roy S. de Guzman
Contributor

THE DEPARTMENT of National Defense has hired a United States public relations firm to lobby for increased financial and logistical support for the Armed Forces before key US government offices.

The "Washington Report" disclosed recently that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes—who is leaving for Washington tomorrow—forged the lobby contract with the Rhoads-Weber Shandwick PR firm on his last visit to Washington in November 2001.

The Washington Report is a web-based information service put out by the O'Dwyer Company, a New York-based public relations firm monitoring lobbying activity in the US Congress.

A check made by the Inq7.net with the US Senate's Office of Public Records showed that a two-year lobby contract had been concluded between the Philippines' Department of National Defense and Rhoads-Weber Shandwick to help the DND keep in touch with the Pentagon, the White House and other federal agencies.

For its lobbying and consulting services, Rhoads-Weber Shandwick is to be paid $20,000--about P1 million—a month, or almost P25 million for the two-year duration of the contract.

Apparently, the DND wants much more than the $100 million in financial assistance—mostly old military planes, vessels and weapons—that US President George W. Bush has promised the AFP.

Bush earlier vowed to turn over to the AFP a C-130 cargo aircraft, two US Coast Guard cutters, eight Huey helicopters and 30,000 old-model M-16 rifles that "the Pentagon no longer needs."

The intense DND lobbying is occurring amid negotiations between Manila and Washington for a Mutual Logistics Support Agreement between the two countries' defense departments in spite of the fierce opposition to the presence of US troops in the Philippines.

The 1,300 US soldiers in the Philippines are, next to Afghanistan, the largest deployment of US troops in Bush's international "war on terrorism."

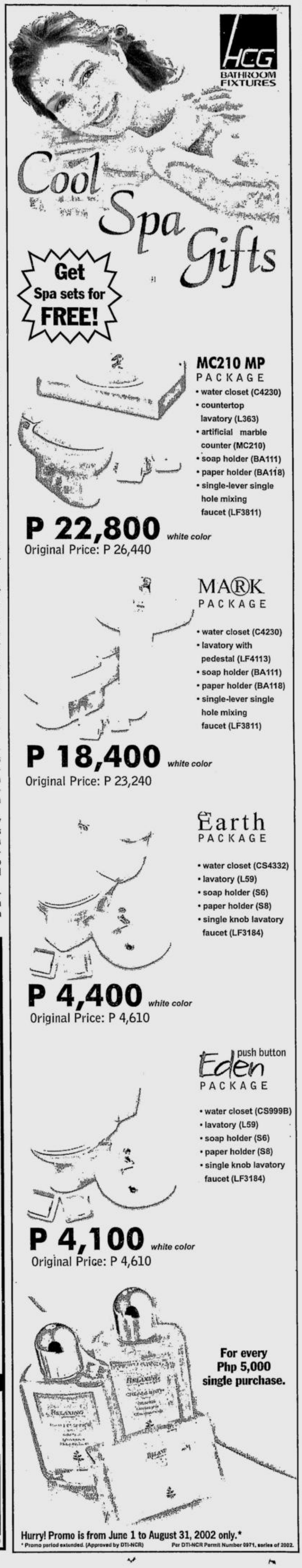
The "Washington Report" said the Philippines' defense department account will be personally handled by Barry Rhoads of Rhoads-Weber Shandwick's division on government relations. Rhoads, a former deputy general counsel for the US Base Realignment and Closure Commission and a US justice department trial attorney, will be reporting directly to Reyes, it added.

The disclosure seems to confirm earlier reports that Manila and Washington are both bracing for an extended stay of US troops in the Philippines.

In the guise of conducting joint military exercises, the US soldiers arrived in the Philippines in February and immediately began training Filipino soldiers in counter-terrorism, particularly in locating Abu Sayyaf bandits then holding hostage a US couple and a Filipino nurse on Basilan island.

Early this month, Filipino soldiers, aided by US spy planes, night vision and communications equipment, finally succeeded in catching up with the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers. But American missionary Martin Burnham and nurse Edibora Yap were killed while Gracia Burnham was injured in the bloody rescue.

The first phase of the Balikatan 02-1 joint military training exercises ended on July 31, but a second phase involving 400 US is to resume in October.



EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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Running in circles

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is riding full gallop in her war against the "enemies" of her artificial construct, the "strong Republic." In her offensive, she is kicking up so much dust and sending mixed signals that the public is confused over whether she is charging the enemy or merely running in circles.

A few days after she declared "all-out war" on the communists, her subalterns revealed that the government's peace panel in the suspended peace talks with the National Democratic Front was preparing a draft of a new peace agreement. This is in line with the dovish approach of Speaker Jose de Venecia, and it signals a shift toward negotiations rather than confrontation.

EDITORIAL

The mixed signals emanating from the government indicate that either the President is not in control or she does not know what she wants. The change in tune cannot be explained as a tactical move in which toughness would soften the communists' position to give the government a strong leverage in resumed peace talks.

While there have been reports of stepped-up NPA attacks, the encounters have involved small units and are not decisive. Although the self-exiled Communist Party leader, Jose Ma. Sison, has said that his order to the NPA to blast power lines was an "analytical assessment" rather than a command to attack, it is possible that the impetuous Sison backed off because of the strong negative public reaction in the homeland to his posturing. His climb down is clearly not influenced by the government's own tough talk. Besides, Sison sounds comical. For how can he conduct a guerrilla campaign several thousand miles away from the front and expect to win?

By the same token, Ms Macapagal cannot be expected to win her multi-front war against enemies of the republic without a grand strategy and without focus, given the very limited resources of the state for police action. Already this is beginning to show in the new budget proposal in which the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police are being the highest budgetary increases at the expense of, for example, agriculture or social services.

While confusion prevails over the anti-communist campaign, the President is relentlessly pursuing the drive against kidnap for ransom gangs. The other day, she posed for pictures before a group of handcuffed men, who the law enforcement agencies claim to be members of some notorious kidnap syndicates.

The President justifies this tactic of presenting suspects before they are formally accused or they have undergone preliminary criminal investigation as an effective way to deter crime. She said she would continue to "humiliate criminals."

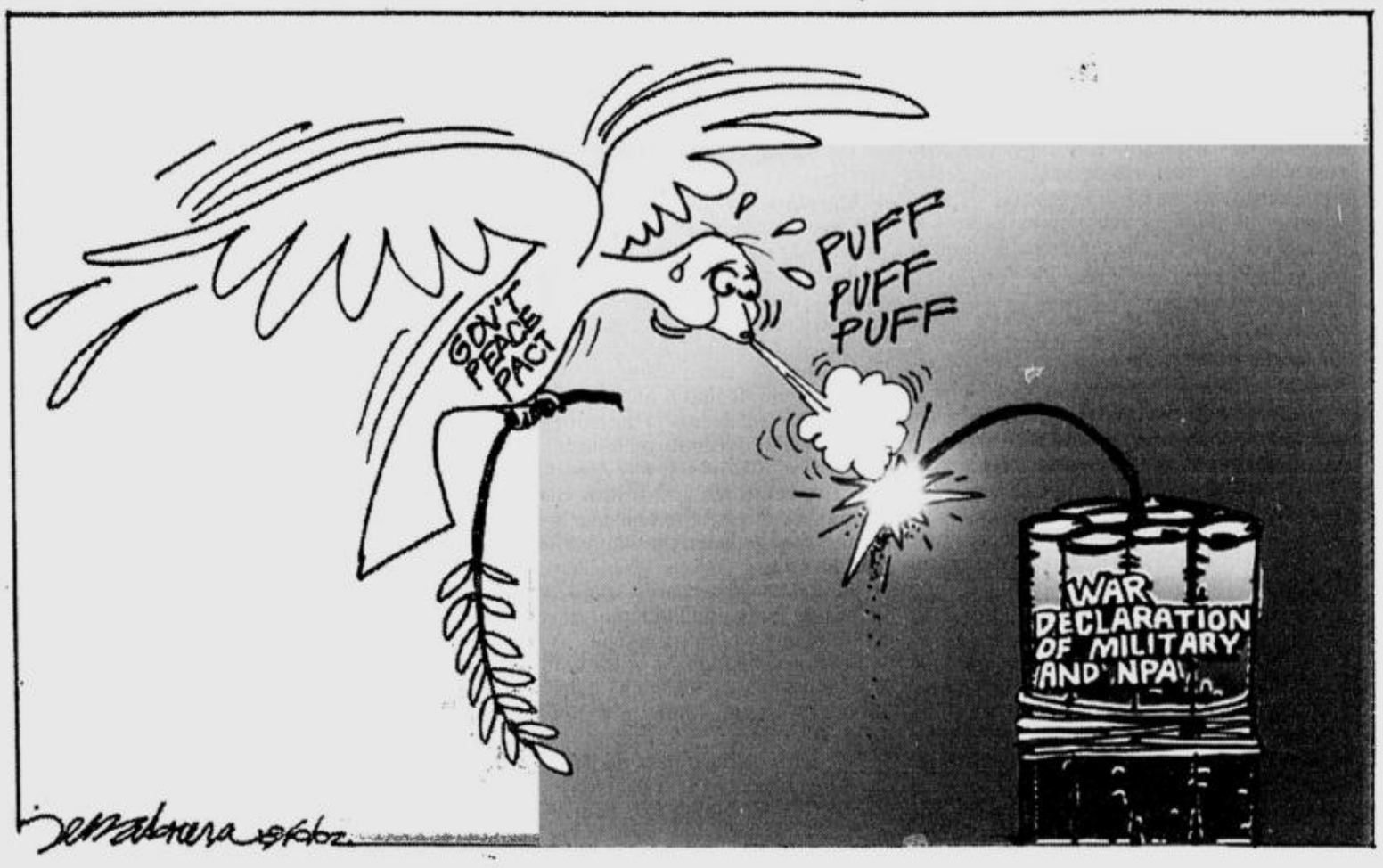
This is wrong on several grounds. First, criminals cannot be fought effectively by merely humiliating them through the media. Second, while they are suspects, it requires due process to reach the conclusion that they are criminals.

In the haste to show results in just a matter of days, the President has no compunction convicting suspects through extra-legal methods. Her chief method in this short-cut is trial by publicity. While we support her campaign to make our homes and the streets safe from criminals, her method is just a step away from that favored by former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim or Sen. Panfilo Lacson, both of whom didn't hesitate to use extra-legal means to rid the country of criminals.

The President has adopted the lynch mob approach to fighting criminals. In this approach, she is no different from either Lim or Lacson. They are all of the same mold; only their weapons are different. When authorities, especially the President, make short-cuts on the legal process, she, as the chief executor of the law of the land, loses the high ground in combating crime.

It is obvious that the President seeks to seize the high ground on the issue of law and order for political advantage in the 2004 election. But her methods are dubious.

Ms Macapagal has lost focus in her law and order offensive. She has been moving too fast and has lost her bearing. It might do her some good to pause and establish her direction. Perhaps, she also needs some humility to admit that her zeal drives her to the edge of breaking the law.



Still on the Comelec scandal

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

A DEAR friend faxed me a letter concurring with my recent article on the brazen extravagance of the Commission on Elections in buying 7 luxury cars for the total cost of P8.5 million in addition to the 2 other official cars already enjoyed by each of its members. Chair Benjamin Abalos had not yet assumed office when the purchase was ordered by the six other commissioners, but he tacitly accepted it, including the assignment of one of the new cars to him. He piously declared, like Pontius Pilate washing his hands, that none of them should have more than three official cars, thereby further exposing the extent of their incredible abuse.

Bartolome C. Fernandez Jr., who sent me the letter, has been for years a professor in the UP college of law and other law schools where he has been teaching Political Law, including the Law of Public Officers. He is an expert on the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. He has supplemented theory with actual practice, first as for many years Chief Legal Counsel of the Commission on Audit and later as a member of that constitutional body itself from 1986 to 1992 (during which period, he says, he used only one official car). Like many other concerned citizens, he is affronted by the Comelec scandal, but not only on moral but also legal grounds.

"Such scandalous spending of the people's money," he says, "was preventable in audit. The Commission could have stopped it in pre-audit pursuant to its constitutional mandate to prevent and disallow "irregular, unnecessary, excessive, extravagant, or unconscionable expenditures of government funds" which are violative of pertinent accounting and auditing rules promulgated by it in accordance with which it conducts the audit of government expenditures."

Fernandez calls the purchase of the 7 brand-new luxury cars at the average price of P1.2 million not only "extravagant" but also "unconscionable." As the commissioners are already allowed 2 cars each, the purchase of a third one was also "unnecessary." Adding to the initial cost of their acquisition the maintenance of these expensive vehicles, including, as Fernandez notes, the employment of additional drivers for each of them, the ordinary taxpayer can only cringe at the unbelievable callousness of the whole transaction.

The former member of the COA submits that it "should have asserted its active audit power as envisioned in the Constitution by putting a stop to the (purchase) before it could even happen."

"The whole trouble," he says, "is that the COA is utilizing the post-audit technique whereby it only reviews a completed transaction after payment has been affected." It may consider it illegal but cannot annul or revoke it because it is already an accomplished fact. "Any disallowance the COA might make in its post-audit report would seemingly be a misnomer because there is in a real sense nothing to disallow, the audited transaction being already a *fait accompli*."

The Comelec anomaly could have been *prevented* in the first place if it had been pre-audited by the COA, that is, before the payment was effected and the contract was consummated. But, as Commissioner Fernandez says, it is now too late to correct the irregularity because "there was already a diminution in the funds of the agency. In auditing jargon, there was already a 'disturbance' of its fiscal posture."

"Of course," he adds, "the COA can impose or initiate the necessary sanctions on the officials determined to be liable" for the prohibited transaction. "But in my experience at COA, that is easier said than done." Fernandez must be thinking of many other financial abuses that, although preventable, were committed nonetheless and have remained unpunished by the COA despite the expanded powers vested in it by the present Constitution.

The Commission on Audit is the watchdog of the financial operations of the government. This is an important constitutional role as the stability of our Republic depends on the integrity of its fiscal policies and operations. So many regimes have floundered and collapsed because of their improvident and irregular management of public funds and properties. This can be avoided in this country with a vigilant and aggressive Commission on Audit.

I thank my friend Bart for sharing his expertise and experience with the public and giving it a fuller understanding of the legal and practical considerations involved in the unspeakable scandal were P8.5 million of the people's money was squandered to gratify the comfort and convenience of the members of the Commission on Elections. But I do not share his pessimism that the matter is a "done deal," so to speak, and is beyond, correction and castigation by the appropriate authorities.

Are we really that helpless? Are similar excesses being committed by other government officials without compunction, accountability or contrition? Does immunity cover the wrong by its mere commission? God spare us from a new oligarchy saying with unfeeling prescience, as the people suffer from its misdeeds, "After us the deluge!"

Bribery in the Court of Appeals

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IT is gratifying to note that more and more Filipinos are willing to do their part in exposing corruption in government—and at very high levels at that. One of the most recent has to do with two justices of the Court of Appeals (CA), who have been put on the carpet by the Supreme Court (SC) which has asked to comment on the complaint filed by Antonio Litonjua that he had paid P1.5 million to secure a favorable decision from them.

According to the complaint, as reported in the newspapers, CA Associate Justice Juan O. Enriquez Jr. asked Litonjua on the telephone to visit Enriquez at the latter's office. During that visit, Litonjua and his brother were allegedly told by Enriquez that a "mobilization and judiciary expense fund" in the amount of P1.5 million would ensure the speedy resolution of the case involving them.

There are many aspects of the complaint that I find extremely interesting. One is that this does not seem to be the first time Litonjua and Enriquez were parties to this type of transaction. In a previous one, Enriquez was still a regional trial court judge, and P500,000 allegedly changed hands. Which leads one to question the process of promotions in the judiciary. If Enriquez was taking bribes, surely his colleagues in the legal profession would know about this directly or by word of mouth, so how come he was still promoted to the CA? Doesn't the Judicial and Bar Council at least attempt to make a background check on those who are nominated to judicial positions, the way the Commission on Appointments does (whether effectively or not)?

The second is that Litonjua seems to have filed his complaint not because Enriquez asked for what in effect was a bribe, but because Enriquez, after having allegedly having been paid and delivering the expected favorable decision, reversed himself. Which leads one to conclude, alas, that perhaps Litonjua's whistle-blowing motives were not very pure.

The third is that Enriquez allegedly changed his decision (or so he was supposed to have explained to Litonjua) because of a counter-offer from the opposing camp that he could not resist—in the form of a promise that his (Enriquez's) wife would be appointed to the Sandiganbayan if he "amended" his decision. If this, again, is true, it means that there are people who can, and do, strongly influence judicial appointments, and do not hesitate to use such power also for their own personal profit—and damn the effect on the quality of the judiciary.

But aside from explaining his side on the Litonjua complaint, Enriquez should be called to do even more explaining by the SC.

Specifically, he should be asked to explain why, as ponente of a CA decision promulgated on July 17, he in effect reversed a Supreme Court decision which was final and executory. This was in the case of the International School Alliance of Educators (ISAE) who were asking for salary parity with their foreign counterparts in the International School Manila (ISM). The SC, in a landmark decision, ruled in their favor.

How could Enriquez reverse the SC? By setting aside the orders Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas, who was in turn merely executing the decision of the SC. Enriquez ruled that the secretary had abused her discretion, an issue which he said was within the ambit of the jurisdiction of the CA.

Enriquez very carefully says that the CA, as a subordinate court, may not rule or provide for an interpretation of the SC's decision. And yet, that is exactly what he did when he said that the SC's decision "clearly did not include the particulars that the Order of the Secretary of Labor and Employment provided."

What makes Enriquez's decision more questionable is that it was promulgated eight days **after** the Supreme Court, ruling on a petition brought before it by the ISAE, gave ISM and its lawyers a severe scolding. "It appears plain to the Court that there should be no dispute regarding the application of the (previous) decision... the dispositive portion thereof seems quite plain...

"Since it did not touch upon the other aspects of the assailed orders, such portions are presumed to have been sustained by this Court...

"In fine, the School's actuations are tantamount to, among other things, disobedience or resistance to the final judgment of this Court by resorting to dilatory tactics such as filing of another case in the Court of Appeals involving the same subject matter and issues that have already been resolved with finality by this Court, which also constitutes forum-shopping."

The SC then required ISM, its Board of Trustees led by its president Aernout Van Gaag, its superintendent David Toze, and its lawyers, to show cause why they should not be held in indirect contempt for disobedience of or resistance to a lawful judgment of the SC; for improper conduct tending to impede, obstruct or degrade the administration of justice; and engaging in forum-shopping by filing with the CA a petition for prohibition and certiorari to enjoin the orders of the DOLE secretary implementing the decision of a final and executory judgment of the SC.

Enriquez obviously found nothing wrong with this behavior, and in fact rewarded it in his own decision, in apparent defiance (again) of the Supreme Court's opinion. What does that make of him?

Cheap election stunt or moral crusade?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PRESIDENT'S campaign against corruption in the bureaucracy and criminality and lawlessness in our society is in accordance with the pledge she made in her State of the Nation Address last month. The methods undertaken to attack these evils have involved the use of strong-arm tactics and high-profile visibility in the mass media, with the President herself and high-ranking police officials presenting the criminal elements to the media.

This new approach has shaken society to its roots, doubtless because this is the first time that a sitting president has waged a personal campaign against these evils using such high-profile methods.

* * *

Sadly, however, GMA's campaign against corruption and criminality has run into criticism because of a few snafus, most prominent of which was the unfortunate implication of LandBank cashier Acsa Ramirez as a suspect instead of as government witness. But the snags shouldn't detract from the fact that these evils are being addressed forcefully and that fear is now being sown in the hearts of the wrongdoers.

Instead of reaping criticisms, the President deserves full support from the citizenry. We should be thankful that finally our government is addressing criminality, which has made us citizens insecure in our own land and frightened foreign investors away, and corruption, which has sapped our moral strength as a people and dissipated precious resources of government estimated at about P20 billion a year.

But support for her campaign will come provided it is carried out with fairness and impartiality, and the right intention. What is the motive? Is it just to score "*pogi* points" for 2004 (it would be naïve to argue that she does not have her eyes set on that goal with this campaign), or is it, more importantly, to rid the government of corruption and society of criminality? In other words, is it a cheap election stunt or a real moral crusade?

* * *

It is important to examine the intention, for past cases of *kuryente* in the President's anti-criminality and corruption drive have shown that rushing investigations in order to chalk up "instant results" can be frightfully disastrous, as in the cases of Faisal Marohombsar and Ramirez. The current crackdown in the Department of Public Works and Highways in connection with the multimillion-peso anomalous repairs of vehicles is most laudable, but it may have some hidden time-bombs again. Innocent names may again be besmirched.

I recently spoke with Public Works Undersecretary Mabini "EQ" Pablo, a good friend of mine, and he lamented some media reports that tend to lump his name together with the 41 DPWH personnel accused of irregularities. He stressed that the audit report on the anomalies clearly stated that he was not accused of participating in any capacity, whether directly or indirectly, in those irregularities, but of "administrative neglect of duty," or failing to report the actions. But even this "far lesser charge," stressed Pablo, has no basis in his official decisions and actions, for documents covering disbursement for vehicle repairs do not pass his desk, not even that of his secretary. The documents, he asserted, implicate employees no higher than two levels of seniority below him, "well beneath my day-to-day span of effective control."

Pablo lamented that the complaint against him was filed "with indecent haste," and that he was never given the opportunity to be heard or to explain his side, before he was administratively and publicly charged. He stressed that he has been a career public servant for nearly 30 years, and that through all those years, "I have kept faith with my integrity and my honor, as well as those of my family."

I have known EQ and his family well, and I find it difficult to believe he would indulge in such shenanigans at this late stage, when for nearly 30 years he has kept his name clean in a department that is notorious for corruption.

* * *

Education for the Upbringing of Children, or EduChild Foundation Inc. for short, is a non-profit organization of parents dedicated to helping other parents in the delicate task of nurturing and raising children imbued with Christian virtues and molded into loving, responsible and productive adults. This year, EduChild, headed by its chair Ernesto Lagdameo Jr. and president, Dr. Walter Brown, will host the Asia-Pacific Family Congress 2002, on the theme "My Family...Who's Responsible?" at the PICC on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 16 and 17. The EduChild Congress aims to help pave the way for the coming World Family Congress to be held in January 2003 in Manila, which is expected to be graced by no less than Pope John Paul II, by emphasizing the commitment to uplift, strengthen and solidify the family.

For the EduChild Congress, which is chaired by Rolando A. Rodriguez, various renowned professional lecturers on family and education, such as James B. Stenson, Dr. Esther J. Esteban and Fr. Greg Gaston, will tackle topics on family building; images of husband and father, and wife and mother, in the contemporary family; the anatomy of father and mother, here and elsewhere, or what is billed as "the daily struggle to be good fathers and mothers." There will also be open discussions with the youth, young professionals and adults on fatherhood, motherhood and family life. Through couple interactions and presentation and discussion of study results on family, the EduChild Congress hopes to develop the clarion call to parents: "Be Family, Think Family & Do Family."

Educators, parents' groups and NGOs dealing with the Filipino family are enjoined to attend this congress. For registration and other details, contact Marievic at 975-0714 or 0916-4616-980 or Lara at 890-6707 or 0917-527-0691.

'Fit only for this kind of work'

(Conclusion)

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT WAS Patricia who told me she wanted me to convey to the public that poverty is not the only reason so many women are driven to sex work and choose to stay there. In her years in the work, Patricia confided, she has come across sex workers who had been teachers, white-collar employees and even one who had worked as a nurse at Makati Medical.

Her theory is that most women in sex work are survivors of childhood sexual abuse, such as herself, who suffered a serious blow to their self-esteem. After the first molestation by her father, says Patricia, she felt so dirty that she repeatedly rubbed her skin, trying to erase not just the lingering scent of her father, but his color and thus his legacy to her. Thinking of themselves as dirty, dishonored and devalued, the women cannot fully escape their past, says Patricia, and begin to think they are not fit for any kind of work save for sex work.

Alicia's account of how she found out that she was HIV-positive is illustrative of the carelessness with which many medical personnel handle HIV tests. Blood samples were taken from her, she said, as part of a routine health exam. But when the results of the test were revealed to her, says Alicia, the news was relayed in front of the club owner for whom she was working. She was asked not to report for work at the club, and as gossip spread within the industry, Alicia soon found it impossible to land a job anywhere. The last I heard from her, she continued to live in "Bahay Lingap," a living facility provided by the DOH for people with HIV.

Both Patricia and Alicia have yet to "out" themselves as HIV positive, though they say their families already know about their status. Patricia has told her story more than once before a public audience, but she still has second thoughts about courting media attention. During a TV appearance to help promote "Nightmare Journeys," Patricia says she and Alicia briefly wondered if they should finally allow themselves to be revealed as people living with HIV. In the end, they not only insisted on being shot in silhouette, they also kept quiet about their HIV status.

* * *

A FEW words about trafficking, the trade in human beings that is, according to studies, the third largest illicit trans-border operation in the world after illegal drug trafficking and illegal arms dealing.

One of the most striking things I noticed in the course of interviewing the 12 women is how "casually" the decision to enter sex work is often made. Asked how they entered the orbit of pimps, recruiters, promoters and even syndicates involved in local and global trafficking, the women were amazingly blasé about their initial contacts. A "friend," "neighbor," "cousin," even one woman's father, all served as conduits to the traffickers. While some were duped into sex work, falling for false promises of employment in factories or such innocuous occupations as waitresses, others walked into it with their eyes open. They took jobs as "entertainers," dreaming of earning enough to take their families out of poverty and keenly aware that they had no skills or assets to market except their bodies.

Another disturbing insight is that the families of the women often pushed them into the hands of traffickers. And once the women were in the trade, pressure from their families served to keep them there. The expectation that they would come home, pockets bulging with foreign currency, their luggage weighed down by appliances and jewelry, kept the women compliant and willing to endure the harshest humiliation and violence. And yet, it was also fear of bringing "shame" to their families that silenced the women, motivating them to hide their misery behind reassuring accounts in their letters home.

* * *

WHAT is most interesting and remarkable about the stories in "Nightmare Journeys," though, is not how the women were victimized, but how they somehow found the inner resources to either fight back or start anew. Victory for the women could be as simple a matter as finding a source of income outside sex work, or obtaining a college degree. It could also be such a significant and courageous act like putting an illegal recruiter behind bars.

What else have I learned from this journey into the lives of the women? One is that a woman's essence does not lie in her body, sexuality or purity. No matter the amount of degradation and abuse they underwent, each of them kept stoking a fire within that burned with dreams of a better life and strengthened her belief in her worth as a human being. Which brings me to a second lesson: that no matter how far down one path a woman has walked, it is still possible for her to veer away from it, if not carve out her own road, to bring her to new destinations.

* * *

WRITING the book was far from a stroll down the garden path, as I thought early on. There were obstacles and detours that served to push the deadline back repeatedly. The sample—12 women I had interviewed personally, and two others whose stories of being trafficked in Europe had been recounted in another book—was not as representative as I might have wished.

But in their commonalities, I think the women's stories serve to tell the collective story of the whys and hows women find themselves trapped in trafficking hell. I have no illusions the book will bring to a halt the immensely profitable trade in women and children. But by letting us in on their pain and recovery, the women have done all of us women a favor by giving us hidden faces and assumed names, the better to give our understanding of trafficking a human dimension.

Bulacan folklore

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

MAITA, who works at the Archdiocese of Manila archives, tells me that Isabelo de los Reyes renounced Free Masonry, but I forgot to ask in what year and whether he had renounced the religion he started as well. However, De los Reyes' fame should not rest on his religious beliefs but on the research he did on Filipino folklore and traditions. It turns out he was from Bulacan, so it's not unusual that he was familiar with its customs.

The song of the *tuku* (tok-ko), slow and monotonous like the tick-tock of a clock, serves as an oracle for villagers. For example, a young man who wishes to know through this method whether his beloved is really meant for him, waits for this song and says, "She will love me" with the first sound, "She will not love me" with the second, and "She will love me" with the third. He says this successively until the reptile stops singing, taking as an answer the last word that is pronounced with the last sound of the song.

The *gayuma*—(*taguiroot* to Ilocanos) is also known in this locality. The Aetas of Angat know of certain aphrodisiac plants, among them those they call *manibid* which grows at the bottom of a grotto whose location is known only to them.

Here are some formulas that sweethearts used to use for their declarations of love: The exchange of handkerchiefs with their respective initials. Dividing a handkerchief with each one conserving his half is also considered a solemn oath. If they wish to do it with some solemnity, each one holds a *buyu* (beetle nut) and the man puts it the mouth of the girl while she does the same to him. Both chew it and once well chewed they exchange the *sapa* as the *buyu* well crushed is called. There are customs as well that are already falling into disuse and are only conserved in some remote barrios.

If she doesn't wish to be dominated, the old women advise, a bride should step on the foot of the groom and press his hand when he proffers it during the nuptials. In the same vein, the bride should precede the groom in going up the steps of the house after the ceremony. If during the veil ceremony the veil falls on the ground, it is a sign that the couple will separate sooner or later.

Upon arrival from the church, an altar is prepared in the nuptial house with two lit candles where the couple kneel together with their sponsors in order to give thanks and raise their petitions for the happiness of the newly-weds to the saints of the house before rendering the filial homage owed to the parents. Close relatives are supposed to be witnesses.

The two candles in the altar are considered symbolic of the couple. They should be of the same height and lighted at the same time. Whichever one is consumed first signals that the party will die first. If the candles are consumed with great rapidity, it is said that the new marriage will not last long.

Positioning the head of the bed toward where the moon rises on the wedding night and placing a portion of the plant called *papaya macho* (Carica) under the bride's pillow without her knowledge ensures that the baby will be a boy.

The difficulty of giving birth is attributed to the curses of a demon who wishes the death of a fetus before it is baptized so that he may take the soul. In order to avoid this, a bonfire should be lit and kept alive by throwing blessed palms on it. Later the husband must begin to jab and pierce the air in the birthing room with a bolo to drive out the demons.

The *lignum crucis* and reliquaries of saints placed on top of her stomach ensure that the birth will be easy. The same effect is achieved by placing an *agnus dei* made with some soil from Jerusalem and wax. The example that De los Reyes saw was shaped like a cube and in one of the sides was etched a lamb. The Aetas of Angat on the other hand know of an herb called *bag-iy*-whose juice, if mixed with water and given to a woman in labor, facilitates the birth.

The Aetas also believe that an infusion made from a plant called *"manunao"* causes temporary sterility. (Given our birthrate and population one wonders why research was never carried out on this plant.) To find out with certainty how many children a woman can have, the nodes in the umbilical cord of her firstborn should be counted.

With regard to the weather, the first 12 days of January represent the 12 months of the year. In order to find out what month will have heavy rainfall, it has to be observed in which of the 12 days it rains, saying for instance, it will rain with abundance in May if it rains heavily on the fifth day. If it's overcast on one of those days, it is said that it will rain but not with abundance in the month represented by that day. The song of the *tuku* is considered an omen of good weather.

For the Bulaqueños the first of January is the most critical day of the year because this day influences the private events in the individual's life for the coming year. Everyone stays up on this day. Coming rain is indicated by the fireflies that enter the house.

Fired at 20

YOUNG BLOOD

Chiqui A. Larosa

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

LIKE many fresh graduates nowadays, I wanted to work in a call center. Imagine my excitement when barely a week after I submitted my application, I was accepted as trainee. The day I got the much awaited call was exactly one month after my graduation—the deadline I gave myself for finding a job.

Finally, I told myself, my old printer could take a break from churning out resumés on lilac-colored business paper. Finally, I wouldn't have to put up with snobbish receptionists and go home at the end of a day of job hunting feeling like the biggest loser on earth. Finally, I could give a proud reply to the sickening question, *"May trabaho ka ba?"* from meaning friends and snotty acquaintances who were had jobs, I wouldn't be rattled if they ask the impolite follow-up question, *"Magkano ang suweldo?"* I could already picture them suddenly shutting up when I mentioned my above-average starting salary.

Working in a call center may not be the most glamorous first job. But it's enough to make someone who just got her SSS number and who couldn't wait to see her first salary deposited in an ATM truly ecstatic. Add to that the prestige that comes with working in an international company based in Makati, and the convenience of having other fresh grads as batchmates in the training program, and I couldn't ask for more. Well, maybe working the night shift would be a little tough, but it was also my chance to shed unwanted pounds.

The five-week training was tough. There was a lot of information intake in the first four weeks in preparation for the last week when we would take live calls. Different modules were tackled every week and quizzes were given daily. At the end of every week, a final exam was given and those who didn't get the 85 percent passing score had to go.

After a month of lazing at home, all the studying and staying up all night tested my sanity. I would get home at about 9 in the morning totally spent and try to get as much sleep as I could before memorizing protocols, states, capitals, cities, histories, etc.

My batchmates made the whole ordeal tolerable. Less than a week into our training, we were treating each other like old chums. Over coffee and cigarettes, we would study together and squeeze in some stories about our college days, love life, and past jobs. At the end of the long night, we would meet on the ground floor and proceed to a food court nearby for breakfast. There, more stories were told, more dreams and anecdotes shared. We would laugh at our bloopers, and complain that we would never have a night life for long, long time. When it was time to go home, we would bid each other goodbye, calling each other by the special nicknames we had created for ourselves.

It didn't take very long for me to get used to this routine. I was able to adjust my body clock, I got accustomed to all the studying I had to do, and every 10 days I saw the fruits of my hard work when I looked at my savings account. And just when things couldn't have been any better, I would hear people say those magic words: *"Pumapayat ka na."*

On our final of training, the trainers told us we were all in and treated us to pizza.

We went back the next afternoon for the contract signing, and then I was told by human resources manager that I didn't make it, along with five others.

I froze in disbelief as the words sunk in. The HR manager said I did well during the first four weeks of training, but just didn't make the cut after the final week. I was surprised by this explanation because while the last week was a struggle for me, I was assured by the trainers that I was doing fine.

As the HR manager explained that the decision to drop us was made only two hours earlier, the only thing I could think of was that I was being "fired" at the age of 20.

Choosing my words carefully, I told the HR manager that I wished that we hadn't been assured earlier that we made it. Then with all the dignity I could muster, I gave back my modules and headphones, cleaned out my locker, and left.

As I made my way outside, I was feeling devastated. I was a consistent dean's lister at the University of the Philippines, but I didn't even make the grade at a call center. Wasn't I good enough? What would I tell everyone? Was I really unemployed again?

The last question stopped me in my tracks. The idea of going through all those "walk-ins" and interviews again finally uncorked the wrenching pain I had been trying to suppress. I began to cry freely.

The ride home was painful. This was not the way I imagined my first job to be. My two-year plan involved getting some work experience in Makati and saving as much money as I could, and then moving out to Quezon City for further studies while pursuing a career in media. But I had hardly begun yet and already I was tasting defeat.

I thought of the pair of sandals I was eyeing at Shoe Salon and my plan to treat myself to The Spa at the Alabang Town Center. But what hurt most was giving up the idea of saving up enough money to buy those rubber shoes that would have been perfect for my dad, pay for the salon highlights I had promised my mom, buy my *lola*'s vitamins supply, send my younger sister on a mini shopping spree I planned for my younger sister, buy a cell phone for my younger brother to make up for the ugly squabble we had a couple of weeks earlier and the polo I had always for my boyfriend.

As the bus got off the skyway, I noticed that I had loosened up my pumps. My ankles were showing and I could still see the marks left by the blisters that I got during those weeks of training.

In a flash, I remembered the wee hours of the morning when I would get nasty callers who, as my supervisor put it, would launch a series of words pertaining to mothers and tell me to do things to myself when I was unable to find a listing. I remembered how it took all my patience and every ounce of energy remaining to stop myself from telling them to look for the listing themselves and take English 101 to correct their horrible grammar instead of picking on "accent." I remembered staring at the computer with my headphones resting on my sore neck and wondering if I could last six months enduring so much abuse from uncouth callers. The job wasn't ideal, but losing it still hurt a lot.

I closed my eyes and said a brief silent prayer. Then common sense took over. Obviously I didn't make it for two good reasons: one, I wasn't cut out to be a directory operator, and two, God had other plans for me. It was as simple as that.

Frustrated as I was, I knew there would be more jobs waiting, more opportunities knocking, and that the treat I had planned for my loved ones would just have to wait a while. I was unlucky the first time, but I still had the rest of my life to make up for it. Like those sore spots on my ankles, the pain of losing my first job would only make me stronger, tougher and better prepared to handle the next package of rejections, trials and failures. I knew that when I got home I would cry some more and pig out for a few days, but I felt confident that eventually would get over it.

Chiqui A. Larosa, 20, is a BA Communication Arts graduate of the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

The perils of trial by publicity

TRIAL by publicity is evil because it tends to convict even the innocent ones in the eyes and mind of the public. The case of Acsa Ramirez should teach us why libertarians all over the world condemn trial by publicity.

Lawyers abhor it not because they side with criminals, but because they value due process that requires a hearing before anyone is convicted on proof of guilt beyond reasonable doubt. There is a clear distinction between suspected criminals and convicted felons, for whom the law provides different kinds of protection and treatment.

At a more practical level, some judges would not dare exonerate an accused already identified as a criminal by the President or considered guilty by the public. He will have to agonize between acquitting a person for insufficiency of evidence and incurring public wrath.

There was also the recent order of the President that formal charges be filed against the judge who issued a retraining order in favor of suspected rice smugglers. A judge who goes against the publicly expressed wish of the President should kiss goodbye the promotion he has been dreaming.

In the meantime, Acsa Ramirez will just have to grin and bear it. *Marami kasing nagpipilit magpapogi at mag pa-*cute.

—ARCHIMEDES S. MARQUEZ, 420 Gov. A. Pascual St., San Jose, Navotas, Metro Manila

LETTERS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

An embarrassment for all

THE PRESIDENT should apologize to Land Bank of the Philippines cashier Acsa Ramirez post haste. It will not detract from her image of being both the Ina ng Bayan and the builder of a strong republic. An error and injustice were committed. Even newly appointed Commission on Human Rights Chair Purificacion Quisumbing said so. Thus there should be rectification.

Afterwards, the President should fire those responsible for exposing her office to ridicule, providing fodder for her political enemies in the process.

The public relations stunt being staged by President Macapagal's handlers will surely backfire if there will be more of these episodes. The series of unverified reports that are announced and quickly retracted makes the President's attempts to be pictured as a crime buster funny enough to be ineffective.

Indeed, many people are stunned by the way the Ramirez story went and how she was so cruelly treated by the NBI. She has all the reasons to bring to the public her plight because those who inflicted it on her and her family are now very evasive. Shame on them!

In one interview, Ramirez lamented, *"Maliit na tao lamang po ako, siguro kaya ako ginanito."* No wonder the poor, despite the wooing Malacañang has been doing, have remained skeptical. The President is perceived as insincere. The Ramirez episode is another case that her people have mishandled. Are they secretly sabotaging her presidency?

The transcript of the President's statement showed that she had unfairly alluded to Ramirez. She said, in reference to the tax payment diversion scam, "The bank manager did not report it. Now, the cashier."

Any elementary school pupil would complete this statement thus, "Now the cashier also did not report it." Anything else is *palusot.*

LandBank officials acknowledge that Ramirez had called their attention to the scam. The gall of the NBI director to speak for the President when he said on TV news yesterday that she did not name her as a suspect. Humble pie you should eat therefore, as Yoda would say.

To Acsa Ramirez: Take heart. Be strong. The truth will set you free. If our government officials feel awkward apologizing, the public will know what you did. You are a Dangal ng Bayan.

LandBank president Gary Teves should make public his statement of support for Ramirez. And the the media should give her every chance to vindicate her name.

To her family and those similarly wronged, remember the saying: "What goes around comes around." The 2004 elections are just around the corner.

Those who are feeding unverified reports to the President should stop putting her on the spot. They embarrass the President and their institutions. They embarrass the Filipino.

—HERNANI P. GERONIMO, 1027 Craig St., Sampaloc, Manila

A sight to behold at Luneta

PATRIOTISM is not the monopoly of one place or one country. Thank God we have patriots who stood up against foreign invaders despite overwhelming odds to protect our people.

The 20 busts which were unveiled in 1998 at the Gallery of Heroes at the Teodoro Valencia Circle near the Philippine Relief map do us proud. Too bad the National Centennial Commission (NCC) limited their number to 20.

The busts created and sculpted by Ros Arcilla are a sight to behold. According to the National Historical Institute, the selection was based on the prominence of the patriot's historical roles, geographical contribution and ethnic representation.

For those who do not have time to see the pantheon of patriotic heroes, the busts are those of Lapu-Lapu (Mactan, Cebu), Rajah Sulayman (Manila), Datu Ache (Sulu), Francisco Maniego (Pampanga), Juan Sumuroy (Cavite), Sultan Dipatuan Kudarat (Maguindanao), Francisco Dagohoy (Bohol), Diego Silang (Ilocos), Apolinario de la Cruz (Tayabas), Datu Taupan (Balanguigui), Amar Pakpak or Datu Akadir (Marawi, Lanao), Graciano Lopez y Jaena (Iloilo), Marcelo H. del Pilar (Bulacan), Jose Maria Panganiban (Ambos, Camarines), Gregorio Aglipay (Ilocos Norte), Apolinario Mabini (Batangas), Vicente Alvarez (Zamboanga) , Mateo Carino (Cordillera) and Pantaleon Villegas (Cebu).

Seeing the busts in Luneta reminds us of Dr. Jose Rizal's immortal lines: "Sweet is death for ones native land, where all is dear the sunbeams bless!"

—SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ, Polytechnic University of the Phils., Sta. Mesa, Manila

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Sundays

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A fable for our time

DEMOCRACY is fun especially if you are in the majority and you therefore rule.

In the house, the wife heads the majority which consists of herself, the two kids, Marco and Missy and Juaning the househelp.

The minority consists of myself and Rey, the family driver.

We in the minority have been salivating over the juicy committees in the house. I'd like to take over the foreign relations committee, for example, which Marco heads. The committee decides which restaurant and which mall we'll have relations with on Sundays.

Rey is continuously eyeing the media committee, which Juaning controls. The committee is a very lucrative committee. It is in charge of selling our old newspapers which can be quite a lot since we subscribe to three newspapers.

So we have been scheming and plotting how to grab power.

Our chance came when Juaning had a falling out with the wife and jumped over to our side. Coincidentally, Marco contracted measles and was confined to his room. I immediately informed the wife our group was the new majority and we would be taking over the juiciest committees.

There was a big row. The wife insisted that even after Juaning migrated to our side we still didn't have the majority. The count was 3-3, a stalemate.

I said the count was 3-2 in our favor. Marco was in sick bay, so they were minus one vote. Would they want a vote to establish once and for all which side had the upper hand?

Sensing our determination to call for a show of hands, the wife immediately adjourned the session. Which meant stopping dinner before we were half-way through attacking the crispy *pata*, the main course.

As I still hadn't my fill, I declared a continuation of the dinner. Which the wife promptly labeled a rump session. She ordered Missy to put the crispy *pata* back in the oven and the fruit salad into the ref.

What followed was a flurry of plots and counter plots.

The wife rushed the recovery from measles of Marco. (How she did it, I don't know.) But even with the return of Marco the count was still 3-3.

I insisted that we were the new majority. The wife mysteriously announced that the deadlock would be broken in a couple of days. She hinted that two from our group would jump ship and join her group. To which, I countered: "We are solid as a rock."

The skirmish between the old majority and the new majority in the house was so much fun. Everybody was enjoying the game, Except the two dogs, Galileo and Cassandra, which missed their regular baths and walk in the park because we were all busy squabbling, undecided as to who was really in charge of the pets committee. Besides, the dogs' needs could wait while we kept our focus on the test of wills.

True to her promise, the wife acted to resolve the leadership issue. On the day she said the deadlock would be broken, my mother-in-law arrived, purportedly for a very brief visit.

I had my doubts though. If she came only for a brief visit, why was she carrying two big suitcases?

Soon the mystery of the sudden visit became clear to me. Not long after she arrived, Rey started making motherhood statements like "In unity there's strength," "United we stand, divided we fall."

Thus did the new majority fall. Rey, after an intimate talk with mother-in-law, jumped over to the old majority.

"It's because the bum owes Nanang a big sum of money. *Siguro binura na,*" Juaning explained.

And so the new majority is back to being the old minority.

But I am not giving up. I am presently researching on the legality of recruiting Galileo and Cassandra into my group.

—MART R. DEL ROSARIO, MRR Associates, Cityland 10, Tower 2, Makati City

Franz Arcellana hid secret from his family

I WRITE this letter to correct a misimpression in the article on National Artist for Literature Franz Arcellana in the Aug. 2, 2002 issue of the INQUIRER. I was quoted as saying that he had lost his will to live because of old age. Actually, that phone interview took place barely an hour after my father-in-law's death when everything was still hazy and the family was still shaken by what had just happened. I remember telling Agnes Donato something about old age and losing the will to live. But I also remember, that when she pressed me for the exact cause of death, I gave the phone to my sister-in-law for a more accurate answer as I am not a medical doctor.

Actually, the whole family, especially his two children who are medical doctors, were puzzled when he first started to lose his appetite and his weight suddenly dropped. He refused to go down to the dining room for his meals and just stayed in bed the whole day. Dr. Francisco Y. Arcellana Jr., his oldest child, couldn't understand this as he found his heart to be strong and his lungs fully functional. When he would ask his father if he was in pain, he would vehemently say, "No." He refused to be examined and no one could make him even consider going to the hospital. We wondered how a man who loved life so much could just give up.

The autopsy revealed the secret that he had been so determinedly hiding from his family. The doctors found that he had a malignant tumor of the prostate and that it had spread to his spine. He had been in severe pain. This realization brought tears to our eyes as it dawned on the family: the amount of suffering that he had to endure. Why didn't he tell his wife and children the truth? He probably thought it was too late for any medical intervention. Or maybe, he was just being true to what he had often said about allowing the mind to rule over matter. Nobody really knows. All that we know is that he stoically bore the excruciating pain because he never really went for hospitals, operations and all that stuff.

But knowing him, I believe that he simply muttered to himself, in his inimitable Arcellana fashion, "Well, if it's your time to go, it's your time to go."

Good-bye, Papa, we will surely miss you.

—LYDIA RODRIGUEZ ARCELLANA, Dept. of English and Comparative Literature, UP-Diliman, QC

Davide qualified for top national awards

SUPREME Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., has been named as this year's Ramon Magsaysay awardee for government service. He won the award for "his life of principled citizenship in profound service of democracy and the rule of law in the Philippines."

With this award, the Chief Justice automatically deserves a nomination for either of the two highest national awards conferred annually on civil servants: the Presidential or Lingkod Bayan and the Outstanding Public Official/Employee or Dangal ng Bayan.

The first award is conferred by the President for consistent, dedicated performance exemplifying the best in any profession or occupation resulting in the successful implementation of an idea or performance, which has significant effect on the public or principally affects national interest, security, and patrimony. The second award is granted to any public official or employee in government who has demonstrated exemplary service and conduct on the basis of his or her observance of one or more of the eight norms of behavior described in RA 6713, known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Government Officials and Employees.

These coveted awards build for their recipients a pedestal fit only for extraordinary civil servants, like Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

—T.B. ABAYAN, 13-A Banning St., North Fairview, QC

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Grenade attack at hospital in Pakistan kills 3 nurses

TAXILA, Pakistan—Three attackers hurled grenades Friday at women leaving a church at a Presbyterian hospital near Islamabad, killing three nurses and wounding about 26 people in the second attack this week against Christian or Western interests in Pakistan.

One of the attackers also died in the assault, which happened about 7:45 a.m. on the grounds of the Christian hospital in Taxila, site of Buddhist ruins from the 3rd Century B.C. about 40 km northwest of Islamabad, regional police commander Moravet Shah said.

All the victims were Pakistanis, and about half the injured were seriously wounded, hospital officials and police said.

Police said they believed the attack was linked to an assault four days ago against a school for children of Christian missionaries about 60 km northeast of Islamabad in which six Pakistanis were killed.

"It is clear that terrorists are targeting the Christian community in Pakistan," said S. K. Tressler, the government minister in charge of minority affairs. "The entire Pakistani nation will have to fight terrorism."

The attack occurred as worshippers were leaving a church on the hospital grounds, according to Dr. Ernest Lall, a former hospital director. The service was attended mostly by women and children, and women traditionally exit first.

The three assailants, one of them brandishing a pistol, ran through the front gate of the hospital grounds, locked two watchmen in a guard booth, then rushed at the women with the grenades, police said.

The explosions shattered windows and gouged two large holes in the pavement outside the church. Shoes belonging to some of the victims were seen scattered outside. *AP*

WOMEN cry after three unidentified attackers threw grenades at nurses leaving a Christian missionary hospital in Taxila, some 20 km west of Islamabad, August 9. Three Pakistani nurses were killed and more than 20 people wounded in the attack, the second assault on a Christian institution in less than a week. REUTERS

Gas station scandal stops parliament in India

NEW DELHI, India—A scandal over lucrative gas station franchises awarded to hundreds of governing-party cronies shut down parliament again Friday, with the opposition demanding Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee step down.

"The prime minister must resign," shouted angry members of the main opposition Congress party, leftist and socialist groups as they defied the speaker's plea to allow legislative business for the sixth straight day.

Parliament was rocked last week by an Indian Express newspaper story that reported half of the 3,850 gas stations and shop franchises allotted across India since 2000 had gone to friends and relatives of ministers, lawmakers and staffers of Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party.

Vajpayee immediately ordered the franchises to be shut down, but declined to fire Petroleum Minister Ram Naik or order a federal probe.

"The prime minister must order a probe by federal investigators or a retired judge," said Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi, a Congress party leader.

With Naik refusing to oblige, the opposition asked Vajpayee to resign and own up for the scandal.

Naik denied any wrongdoing by himself or his ministry, saying those who were chosen under the current administration to run gas stations were picked by a board that included former judges. *AP*

Japan ex-foreign minister Tanaka resigns from Diet

TOKYO—Former Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka resigned from parliament on Friday, in a surprise announcement that came two weeks after she gave testimony over allegations of misuse of public money.

Tanaka, a member of the lower house of parliament, handed her letter of resignation to the speaker of the lower house, who later approved the decision, parliamentary official Kimihiko Ishizuka said.

Phones at Tanaka's office rang unanswered.

It wasn't clear how Tanaka's decision would affect public support for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who has drawn fire in recent months from critics who say he is foot-dragging on reforms and who blame him for corruption scandals in his ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Tanaka has been plagued recently by allegations that she misappropriated an undisclosed amount of public funds to pay staff who were not on her official payroll. The funds were intended for use only by official staff for lawmakers.

She went before parliament last month and denied wrongdoing, but critics have said she has not fully cleared the doubts. She has not been charged.

Tanaka, the first woman to become Japan's foreign minister, was the most popular member of Koizumi's Cabinet when he swept to office in April of last year promising economic and political reforms.

But Tanaka stepped down from her Cabinet post on Jan. 30 after an embarrassing battle with senior bureaucrats in the Foreign Ministry over her efforts to rid the ministry of corruption. She retained her seat in the lower house of parliament. *AP*

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Britain warns US against attacking Iraq, reports say

LONDON—British ministers and government officials have strongly advised the United States against attacking Iraq, warning that such action would intensify conflicts in the region, The Independent newspaper reported Friday, quoting senior defense and diplomats.

The warning came as The Times reported that British Prime Minister Tony Blair faced increasing pressure from his own Labor Party and trade unions not to back any US strike.

According to The Independent, British ministers and government officials have warned Washington that launching a war to topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein would "contaminate" crises in Afghanistan, Israel and Kashmir.

"These are issues the Americans appear not to have considered," one official was quoted as saying.

Officials added that the United States had countered British worries by maintaining that existing conflicts in the region can be "containerized" and that it would be impractical to wait for every situation to be resolved before launching an attack on Iraq.

US President George W. Bush is expected to call on London's help in any military campaign to topple Saddam and halt Iraq's alleged development of weapons of mass destruction.

British ministers and government officials also have serious reservations about Bush's call for "regime change" in Baghdad because they say no alternative set-up has been identified, according to The Independent.

They fear that Britain could be left to lead a huge stabilization force for "up to five years" in a post-war Iraq.

While they share the US belief that Saddam has acquired weapons of mass destruction, British ministers have seen no evidence that he can deliver them in any meaningful way against the West, according to the broadsheet.

Their concerns came as a senior Pentagon adviser insisted that Bush would not hesitate to act alone. *AFP*

IRAQI female fighters march during a military parade as the nation marks the 14th anniversary of the end of the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran War August 8 in Baghdad, Iraq. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein used the occasion to announce that he is not afraid of US military threats. GETTY IMAGES

Newspaper publisher named South Korea premier

SEOUL, South Korea—President Kim Dae-jung nominated a US-educated newspaper publisher for the job of prime minister Friday as part of efforts to revamp his government following successive election defeats and corruption scandals.

Chang Dae-whan, 50, must be approved by the opposition-controlled National Assembly.

The main opposition Grand National Party, which has veto power, expressed reservations about the nominee. It said that it will thoroughly check his ethical and other records during a parliamentary hearing.

The nomination came eight days after the one-house parliament voted against the president's choice of the nation's first female nominee, Chang Sang, after lawmakers raised concerns about her ethical standards.

The parliamentary rejection was a setback to the Nobel laureate in his final months in office. His single five-year term ends in February and he is constitutionally barred from running again.

The new nominee is a 1976 graduate of George Washington University and is publisher of Maeil Business newspaper, the nation's largest economic daily. He earned a doctorate degree in business administration from New York University.

"I'm taking this important job when the nation is in a difficult situation. I understand that my mission is to make the economy stronger," Chang told reporters

The premiership is largely ceremonial, with little decision-making power. But the prime minister would lead the government if the president could not carry out his duties. *AP*

Experts fear damaged world economy from US strike

CAIRO—Forecasts of damage to the world economy that might result from a US strike on Iraq dominated economic news from the Middle East this week, along with developments in investment projects in Saudi Arabia.

Economists say military intervention would further hit investor confidence already bruised by a series of scandals in the United States.

"A large-scale attack on Iraq threatens to unleash a crisis of confidence among investors, who tend to turn their backs on the market during crises and wait for better days," said Jean-Francois Daguzan of France's Foundation for Strategic Research, which carries out studies for the government. "It's a worrying prospect for the markets."

Daguzan was speaking after a recent study by French bank BNP-Paribas warned that even a short military campaign similar to the 1990-91 Gulf crisis would increase oil prices from $25 to $40 a barrel and cut world growth by 0.5 percentage point in the first year after intervention, followed by 0.3 points in the second.

A longer conflict could double oil prices to $50 a barrel, the bank warned, wiping out a full percentage point of growth in the first year, 0.5 percent in the second.

With oil reserves estimated at 115 billion barrels, Iraq ranks second in the world behind Saudi Arabia, which has reserves of 261 billion.

Iraq's cabinet, meanwhile, set an ambitious goal of 11 percent annual economic growth for the next decade at a meeting chaired by President Saddam Hussein on Sunday. *AFP*

Legionnaires' disease claims second victim

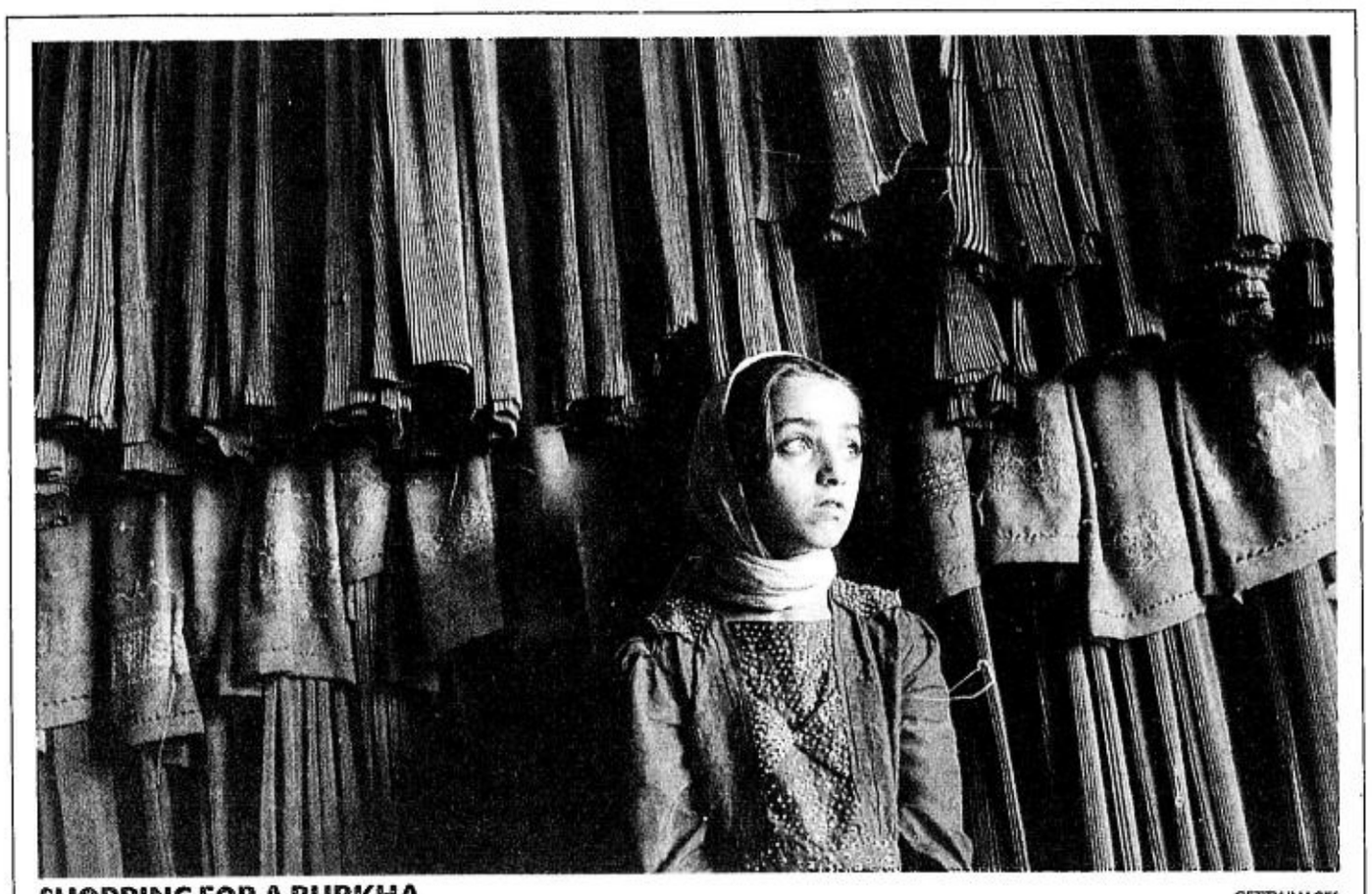
BARROW-IN-FURNESS, England—A second person has died in Britain's biggest outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in about a decade, health officials said Friday.

The woman, aged in her 50s, died overnight Thursday, six days after the outbreak—limited to this city on the Irish Sea in Cumbria, in England's northwest—claimed its first victim, an 88-year-old pensioner.

Legionnaires' disease—first discovered at an American Legion convention in July 1976 where 29 people died—causes high fever, dry cough, lung congestion and subsequent pneumonia. It is commonly spread through contaminated air conditioners and ventilators, and is treated with antibiotics.

Prior to the latest death, a hospital spokesperson in Barrow-in-Furness said Thursday there had been a "gradual reduction" in the number of people with symptoms of the disease.

Since the outbreak began, there have been 110 confirmed cases of Legionnaire's disease in Barrow-in-Furness, with another 35 suspected cases also being treated. *AFP*



SHOPPING FOR A BURKHA GETTY IMAGES

A girl waits for her mother to buy a new burkha in a shop August 4 in Kabul, Afghanistan. Most women in Afghanistan wear burkhas instead of scarves or other veils to avoid being harassed on the streets.

Venezuela court ruling prompts street violence

CARACAS, Venezuela—Nine people were shot and wounded in violent disturbances in Venezuela on Thursday after the Supreme Court rejected a preliminary proposal to put on trial four military officers accused in April's uprising against President Hugo Chavez.

After police clashed with supporters of the populist leader clamoring against the ruling, at least eight civilians were wounded by gunfire and a police officer was shot in the leg, authorities said. Several other officers suffered minor injuries in the clashes.

"They have taken eight people wounded by gunfire to Lidice Hospital," police commissioner Leobaldo Navas told local radio.

Navas said police defended themselves after coming under gunfire. Eyewitnesses interviewed by local media said the civilians were wounded, two seriously, when police opened fire on demonstrators.

With National Guard troops ringing the building, Supreme Court magistrates earlier voted for a second time against a proposal to put the officers on trial for rebellion in a case that last week triggered three days of street clashes.

"They have rejected the proposal . . . and once again defeated the attorney general who has tried by all means to prove a crime of rebellion that doesn't exist," Rene Buroz, an attorney for the accused officers, said.

While the court rejected the preliminary trial proposal, it is not the final decision in the case. The four high-ranking officers and others accused in the April 11-14 coup remain under investigation and could still face trial on other charges related to the coup.

A further ruling has been put back until next week when a another supreme court magistrate will come up with a proposal on how the officers might still be brought to trial. *Reuters*

Sharon brands PA 'gang of assassins'

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon branded the Palestinian Authority a "gang of assassins" that must be rooted out as the Palestinians held their highest-level talks with US officials in months.

Three Palestinian cabinet ministers met Secretary of State Colin Powell and White House national security adviser Condoleeza Rice on Thursday, pledging new efforts to end 22 months of Middle East violence.

But the two sides remained at odds over US President George W. Bush's call in June for Palestinians to replace President Yasser Arafat with a new leadership. Palestinian ministers also sought a firm timetable to statehood.

"I reaffirmed to ministers that the president is committed to doing everything possible to find a way forward," Powell said after talks at the State Department.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said he was assured during the talks that "the end game is specified with a Palestinian state. We really hope to see an action plan that will define the timeline" for independence.

The talks in Washington followed a renewed round of dialogue with Israeli officials, which also yielded no breakthroughs, on easing the army's grip on the occupied Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank on condition Palestinians cooperate on security to reduce violence in those areas.

The Palestinian ministers were also expected to meet Central Intelligence Agency Director George Tenet on security issues during the visit.

Bush called on Palestinians in June to choose a new leader in elections and introduce democratic reforms to the Palestinian Authority as a condition for moving towards peacemaking and statehood in the West Bank and Gaza.

Reiterating that call on Thursday, Sharon lashed out at the Palestinian Authority, whose security forces he accuses of participating in attacks in the 22-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

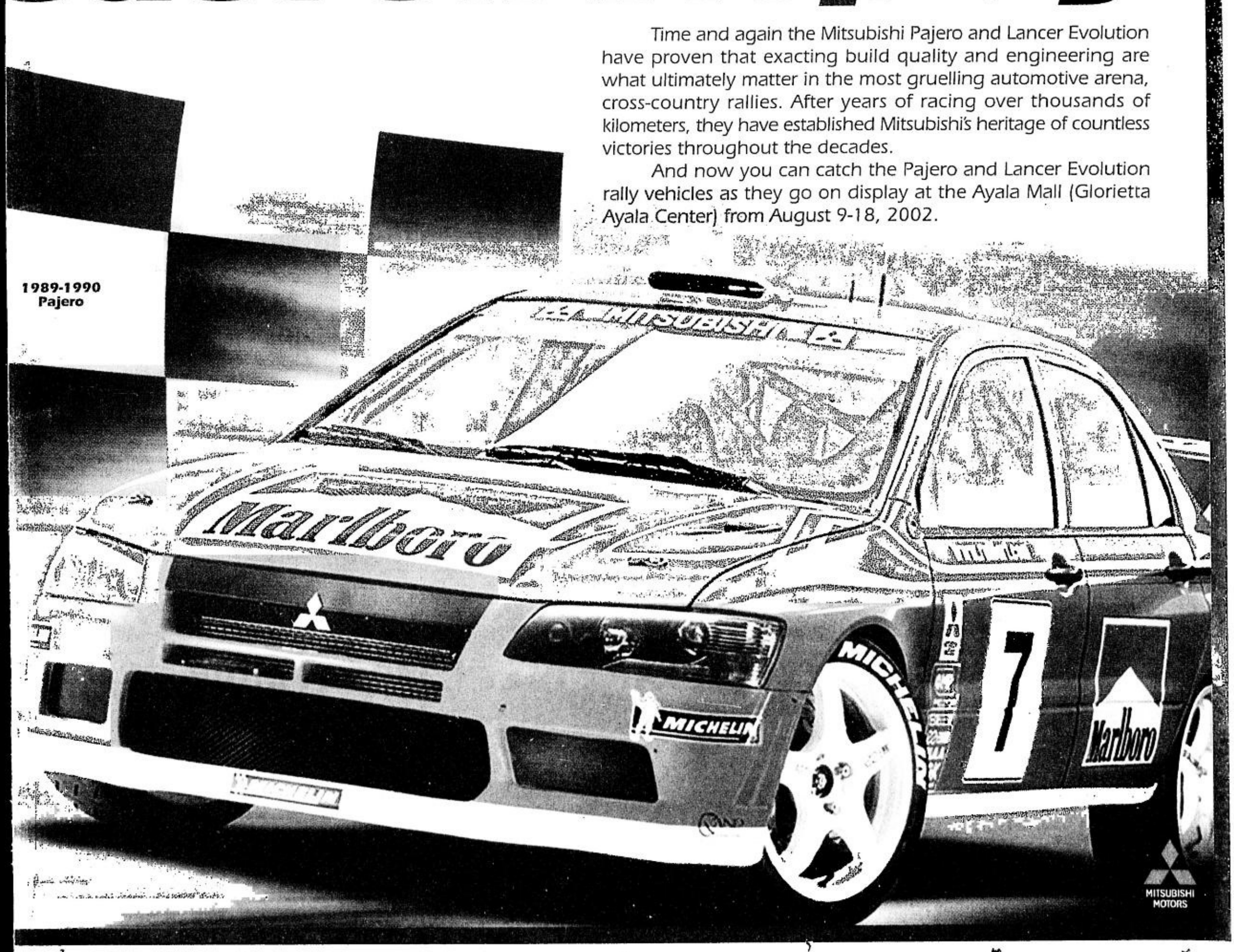
"Between us and the goal (of peace) stands the gang of murder, terror and corruption of the Palestinian Authority," Sharon said in a televised speech.

"The only way to peace demands this gang of murder be uprooted from its political positions," he said. *Reuters*

ubishi's Power Cast On Display

Time and again the Mitsubishi Pajero and Lancer Evolution have proven that exacting build quality and engineering are what ultimately matter in the most gruelling automotive arena, cross-country rallies. After years of racing over thousands of kilometers, they have established Mitsubishi's heritage of countless victories throughout the decades.

And now you can catch the Pajero and Lancer Evolution rally vehicles as they go on display at the Ayala Mall (Glorietta Ayala Center) from August 9-18, 2002.



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SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2002

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 25°	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 25°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 23°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/10/02

ROUNDUP

Exemplary mom

TUGUEGARO CITY—This city's oldest woman, dubbed as an "exemplary mother," has died at the age of 104. Angela Cepeda is survived by her three children. Born in 1898, Cepeda was a teacher for two years. In a homily, the parish priest said she was given a long life because she had been an exemplary mother.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cagayan drought

TUGUEGARAO CITY—After losing more than P40 million worth of crops to drought, provincial officials declared Cagayan under a state of calamity. Reports showed that at least P16 million worth of vegetables and P30.7 million worth of palay were destroyed by lack of rains. The provincial government can now use its 20 percent calamity fund to help affected farmers build water pumps and buy farm inputs.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cityhood bill

LALLO, Cagayan—Mayor Florante Pascual has asked Sen. John Osmeña to introduce a bill making this historic town a city again. Lallo, one of the first four cities in the region, was chosen capital of Cagayan Valley in the 16th century. It was also the seat of the diocese created by Pope Clement VIII on Aug. 15, 1595 until the seat was transferred to Vigan, Ilocos Sur, in 1755. Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan of the Tuguegarao diocese said Lallo would be the starting point of the quadricentennial celebration of the arrival of the Miraculous Virgin of Piat in June 2004.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Treasurer relieved

DIFFUN, Quirino—The Bureau of Local Government Finance has relieved the municipal treasurer here for her alleged failure to account for a P500,000 cash shortage last year. Undersecretary Juanita Amatong said the cash shortage was uncovered by the Commission on Audit. Marietta Bangawan was temporarily replaced by Assistant Treasurer Reynaldo Valenzuela as officer-in-charge.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Hidden in rugs

DAVAO CITY—Illegal drug peddlers have resorted to hiding shabu inside rugs to avoid arrest, according to a police intelligence officer here. Supt. Paterno Orduna, head of the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division, said 'rugs for sale' have been used as a hiding compartment of shabu. Orduna said they discovered this new strategy during the recent arrest of eight alleged drug pushers in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur. He said 100 grams of shabu in different sizes of sachets were recovered from rugs.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

New Laguna cop head

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—The new officer in charge of the Laguna police, Senior Supt. Arnulfo Espiritu, has been installed to replace outgoing Senior Supt. Leon Nilo de la Cruz, who was earlier relieved by the National Police Commission. Espiritu assumed the task of curbing illegal gambling, particularly jueteng, and the illegal drug trade, which De la Cruz allegedly failed to stop.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Class suit vs Meralco

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Thousands of residents belonging to the Group of Laguna Concerned Citizens Registered Voters (GOLAGVO) have filed a class suit against the Manila Electric Co. and the National Power Corp. to protest high energy prices spawned by the power purchased adjustment and independent power producers.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Car parts recovered

MALOLOS, Bulacan—The Traffic Management Group here seized at least P3 million worth of vehicle parts believed stolen by a syndicate operating in Metro Manila and Central Luzon during a raid on a repair shop in Bustos town on Wednesday. Chief Supt. Danilo Mangila, TMG chief in Camp Crame, presented two acetylene tanks, two air compressors, cutting machines and more than 30 pieces of car parts they seized from the repair shop. Police said the syndicate members brought the stolen vehicles to the shop, dismantled the parts and sold them at lower prices.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

'Stubborn' residents' houses torched to give way to dam

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Corazon Albay, 38, her husband and two teenage sons watched in horror as a barangay official torched their wooden house in Barangay San Felipe in San Nicolas town on July 28.

The Albays were one of 11 families still left in Sitio Bolangit. The community will be submerged when the San Roque multi-purpose dam project starts storing water from the Agno River this August.

Albay, a member of the farmers' and gold panners' group Tignay Dagiti Mannalon a Mangwaya-waya iti Agno (Tinmawa), said her family had nowhere to go and that it pained her to see the place where she was born lose to a dam.

"We asked for a little time so we can look for a place to start our life. But they forced us out of our house then burned it," Albay said during a press conference held here by the Tinmawa, the Promotion of Church People's Response and the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luson on Wednesday.

She said 11 houses in Sitio Bolangit were burned by a barangay official, several men wearing IDs of the San Roque Power Corp. (SRPC) and armed men in military uniforms.

Albay and the other residents were asking the National Power Corp. for payment for their lands. She said they have been paying taxes for the land but the Napocor refused to compensate them after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources declared it as a public forest.

Albay admitted, however, that the SRPC paid her P210,000 for the house and other improvements in it, but did not pay for the seven hectares of land where her house stood and the land that her family tilled.

Albay said she received only P168,000 of the P210,000 from Napocor because she had given P42,000 to some local officials who offered to facilitate the payment's release in exchange for a percentage of the amount.

The INQUIRER on Friday called up the offices of the SRPC and its contractor, Raytheon, for comments but this correspondent was told that there was no available official authorized to comment on the eviction.

Mayor Christopher Rodrigo said only Albay's house was burned down. "*Matigas ang ulo niya* (She's stubborn)," he said.

Rodrigo said all landowners were properly compensated for their property before they were asked to leave.

But Tinmawa said tenants, in Sitio Bolangit, not the landowners, were the real victims in the eviction.

Bolangit residents said on July 20, the SRPC men and the armed men, whom they later learned as policemen, asked some 20 residents to leave.

The group returned two days later and again forced the residents out of their houses.

THE ALLEGED mansion of Senator Barbers in Surigao City in a picture taken by Max Asis before he was arrested.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MAX ASIS

Nabbed fotog 'suspected' of slay plot vs Barbers

SURIGAO del Norte Vice Gov. Rodolfo Navarro aired suspicions that Max Asis, the arrested photographer of ex-Gov. Francisco Matugas, was part of a plot to assassinate Sen. Robert Barbers or any member of his family following his arrest in the vicinity of the senator's residence while taking pictures.

In a statement, Navarro said Asis appeared to have information that the senator and his sons, Robert Lyndon (Surigao del Norte governor) and Rep. Robert Ace were to arrive on July 10.

Asis was arrested on that day about 5 a.m. while taking pictures of the alleged house of Senator Barbers about 7-8 km from Surigao City proper.

Asis was charged with illegal possession of a firearm but he said the gun was planted.

"If Asis just wants pictures of the house, why does he have to take pictures at 5 in the morning when he can take it any time of the day or even request for pictures from us or any member of the Barbers family? Aside from pictures, I can also give him copies of deed of sale, location maps and other details of the property," Navarro said.

He said the residence of Senator Barbers is open and there is no need to take pictures at a very suspicious time because there is nothing to hide.

It was also discovered that the pictures taken by Asis were not of the house of Senator Barbers but roads leading to it "which makes it more suspicious."

"If he had told us that he wants to take pictures, we could have accompanied him," said Navarro.

"A big house in Surigao does not cost P80 million," he said.

The construction has taken four years and is not yet finished, according to Navarro. The payment for the suppliers and contractors of the house is on installment basis, he said.

Navarro said Asis was arrested because he was carrying an unlicensed .38 cal. pistol.

Dodong Dumo, driver of the motorcycle used by Asis, said in a sworn statement that he personally witnessed Matugas hand the firearm to Asis in his and a certain Manny Kong's presence.

Cop presented by GMA in crime line-up back in Cebu

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Wanted former policeman Engilberto Durano was brought to Cebu City yesterday amid tight security, barely 24 hours after he was arrested on Monday and presented to the media by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Durano became one of Cebu's most wanted criminals after he was named leader of a kidnap-for-ransom group and was linked to a murder.

Durano was briefly presented to the media at the Police Regional Office-Central Visayas (PRO 7) headquarters at Camp Don Sergio Osmeña before he was brought to the Palace of Justice and was presented in courts where he was facing charges for murder, frustrated murder and for kidnapping.

Two of the three courts where he was presented yesterday have issued commitment orders for him to be jailed at the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center (BBRC).

Durano was brought to the BBRC yesterday afternoon. Police refused to allow reporters to interview Durano.

The tight security came amid reports that the ex-cop was about to surrender to Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña when he was arrested on Thursday in Manila while waiting for a flight to Bacolod City.

The mayor said police should not be credited for Durano's "arrest" because the fugitive only made himself visible as he was already about to surrender.

Durano, the mayor said, was supposed to give himself up within this week.

Durano, as he was being brought back to Camp Don Sergio Osmeña, confirmed that he was about to surrender.

Javiers cry injustice over Canada ruling

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—"Unfair and a grave injustice."

This was how the son of slain Antique governor Evelio Javier described the recent ruling of a Canadian court rejecting the extradition of one of the principals accused in the murder of his father.

"This caught us completely by surprise," said Francis Gideon Javier in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said the ruling of the Canadian Court of Appeals was "ridiculous" because "after a long time" the court reversed the decision of then Justice Minister Allan Rock to extradite Rodolfo "Ding" Pacificador to the Philippines.

"We've been hopeful for a long time that Ding will be brought here to face trial. They (government prosecutors) said it was coming," said the 31-year-old Javier.

On Aug. 1, the Ontario Court of Appeals voted 3-0 against Pacificador's extradition, saying his constitutional rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms would be violated if he was sent back to the Philippines.

The ruling stopped the serving of a federal warrant that would have surrendered Pacificador to Philippine courts and allowed his detention at the Antique Provincial Jail where his co-accused, including his father, former Antique Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, are imprisoned.

Evelio Javier, then 43, was gunned down on Feb. 11, 1986 by heavily armed men at the public plaza during the canvassing of votes in the snap presidential elections.

Rodolfo, his father Arturo and 15 others have been charged with Javier's murder before the Antique Regional Trial Court.

Rodolfo fled to Canada in October 1987 and requested refugee status. He was detained for seven years until he was freed on bail in 1998.

The Philippine government requested the extradition of Pacificador on Sept. 10, 1991 through a diplomatic note to the Canadian government.

Miners rally against violence

DAVAO CITY—Some 2,000 small-scale miners from the gold-rich Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley on Thursday staged a rally outside the provincial capitol to dramatize their anguish over the recent violence in the area.

The rally came as Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, the chair of the Regional Peace and Order Council tasked by President Macapagal-Arroyo to solve the Diwalwal problem, was expected to go to the area to get first-hand information on the recent violence.

Compostela Valley Gov. Jose Caballero said he has already informed the environment department about the rally.

The Court of Appeals (CA) issued a resolution temporarily blocking Monkayo Mayor Joel Brillantes from implementing his cease-and-desist order in the gold-rush area pending the litigation of the case filed by the small-scale miners.

The miners were originally planning to barricade the old Governor Miranda Bridge in Tagum City as they did last March.

But they were forced to change their plans when the police, after receiving reports on the possible barricade, put up a blocking force near the bridge.

Led by the multisectoral group Mt. Diwata Coalition (MDC), the miners brought the remains of Roberto Zamora, the lone casualty in last week's tire burning inside the mine tunnels, to the provincial capitol.

The miners said they will not vacate the area unless their complaints were addressed.

The protest, they said, was not meant to insult provincial officials, especially Caballero, whom they claimed to be on their side. They said they just wanted to catch the attention of the national government and the concerned government agencies to help them in their plight. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Learning lessons on life, business from the taipans

BUSINESSMAN and local columnist Martin Soriano with family friend Henry Sy, SM founder. MARTIN SORIANO

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

IF you want instant mini-biographies and juicy backroom stories on taipans Henry Sy and John Gokongwei Jr., the man to read or ask is Martin Soriano.

Soriano, an Ilonggo in his thirties, researches on and collects anecdotes on the two towers of Philippine business from where he learns lessons on entrepreneurship and life.

Soriano is a columnist for an Iloilo daily and a dry goods trader supplying Robinson's, SM, Rustans and Landmark department stores. He describes himself as a "writer and reluctant businessman who has to go into business to survive."

Soriano started rubbing elbows with the taipans when his family in 1979 became Sy's business partner in the SM Department Store on Valeria Street, Iloilo City, the first SM branch and the nearest thing to a mall in the Visayas.

Sy, during visits to Iloilo City, would cook for the family of Gerry De Luzurriaga, Martin's brother-in-law who manages SM Iloilo.

"No matter how much he served and how full we were, we would finish the food on the table because Henry did not want anything to go to waste since he started so poor. Remember that he came to the Philippines in a Chinese junk at the age of 12 and barefoot at that," said Martin.

During long walks in 1987 at the Sorianos' Lapaz fishpond that supplied dried fish to SM, Sy would tell the young Soriano, then the fishpond operations manager, about the joys and heartaches of his beginnings and how he slowly built SM into a household name.

Soriano said there could have been no SM now had Sy not gone through a gamut of experiences that shaped his business philosophies and practices.

Sy, said Soriano, first started business by putting up a drugstore after the war. He was outsold by the Que family of Mercury Drug Store, which made Sy foray into the shoe business in 1955 with a small store in Avenida Building, owned by Ilonggo entrepreneur Eugenio Lopez.

One step ahead

It was at that small shoe store that Sy learned a lesson he got from an air-conditioner. Wondering how to draw people into his store, Sy installed an air-conditioner, the first to do so.

"The customers came flocking in and that is why up to now, Henry has this philosophy that one has to be always a step ahead of the competition to keep people in your store. And that is also why SM is always a little bit bigger, a little bit colder, a little bit cheaper or more comfortable," said Soriano, a management engineering graduate of De La Salle University in Manila.

Soriano added that Sy copied the SM Mall concept from the Martels of Harrison Plaza where Sy used to be a tenant. And true to the "one step ahead" philosophy, he put up food courts and movie houses in his malls that others copied.

It was not always Sy who called the shots for SM. His daughter Tessie Sy-Coson helped him out. Though Henry founded SM, it was his daughter who expanded it to become the all-encompassing SM Malls and megamalls.

"Tessie used her intellectual capacity as a Tan and her hardworking skills as a Sy to turn SM into a top money maker," said Soriano, recalling a conversation on how Sy bought his wife Felicidad Tan (not related to Lucio Tan) an engagement ring worth P44 after the war.

Even after being successful and wallowing in wealth, Sy is not a man to forget past hurts. Not a single Mercury Drugstore can be found in any SM branch, if only because the Ques almost drove Sy to oblivion in the 1950's when he first started business, Soriano said.

Soriano said not even the Gokongweis can top the "gimmicks" of the Sys' SM as moneymaker because the Sys were always cooking up and acting fast on ideas on "being a step ahead."

He however, takes his hat off to the Gokongweis whom, he said, "are actually intellectuals and accidental businessmen who went into business to support themselves."

Soriano, who supplies dry goods to Robinsons Malls, said the Gokongwei empire will last because Mr. John has invested much on his children's education and honed their skills in dealing with business and people.

Confucian values

Soriano said he noted similarities among the Sys, Gokongweis, Tans and other taipans that make them successful. These values from Confucius are something that Filipinos should emulate: hard work, frugality and humility.

Like the taipans, Soriano believed in starting small and reaching the top "the hard way."

Soriano, who used his inheritance from his late father Col. Manuel Soriano to put up a wholesale outlet at the Jaro Big Market here in 1999 called Martin Soriano and Co., spends a lot of time hunting for bargains in Divisoria, Baclaran and other factory outlets in Luzon.

Though not exactly gunning for "taipanhood," Soriano said he was happy to use the values of the taipans in doing business especially Sy's "one step ahead" philosophy and innovations, and the premium the Gokongweis put on the intellect and hard work.

'Smell the flowers'

The bachelor Soriano still scours Divisoria, the sweatshops and factory outlets at the break of day for inexpensive but quality items.

He is also currently experimenting on nitrogen-packed dried fish ("inhibits food breakdown").

"I have no choice but to get into business to survive but all that I want to do is to travel and be a writer," said Soriano.

But the way he does the "smelling" is so unlike us. For instance, Soriano was the first swimmer to cross the Iloilo Strait in 1994, clocking approximately one hour and thirty minutes.

Though earning substantially to keep himself in style, Soriano is not exactly gunning for taipan-type wealth and influence—just the subtle lessons they give about managing a business. He is content with haggling in Divisoria and experimenting with dried fish.

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GMA allies say: Stop parading suspects

From page A1

stead held at Camp Crame.

"That's the impression I got. I hope this is indeed the policy," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

According to Bunye, the President is "also sensitive to public opinion."

"Maybe she has realized that receiving and presenting suspects at the Heroes Hall is not proper," he told radio station dzRH earlier in the day.

Flavier, however, said he would re-file an earlier bill that would make it unlawful for law enforcers to present suspects to the public in the absence of appropriate charges.

Opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta had also earlier filed Senate Bills 2132 and 874 that would encourage whistleblowers in the government to come out into the open and ensure the protection of suspects from undue exposure to the media.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, chair of the House committee on civil, political and human rights, also said yesterday that the chamber approved House Bill 181—which prohibits the public display of crime suspects—as early as last December.

The party-list representative said she wrote Sen. Francis Pangilinan, chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, the other day to remind his committee to enact the measure.

HB 181, or an "act prohibiting the public display of persons arrested, accused or under custodial investigation in a degrading manner," was authored by Tarlac Rep. Gilberto Teodoro, with Rosales serving as co-author.

Manicurist

For a change, the President did not make a photo opportunity out of meeting the alleged mugger of her manicurist Anita Valderama.

She traveled to Antipolo City yesterday just to thank the policemen and barangay *tanod* who caught the supposed mugger, a 16-year-old Amerasian.

Valderama, 43, earlier told the President that a knife-wielding man robbed her while she was on her way home to Cogeo on the night of July 18.

During her visit, Ms Macapagal promised to give the Cogeo police substation 3 headed by Insp. Noel Ragotero telephones, mobile phones, radio equipment and a new building.

She noted that Valderama had immediately reported the theft to the substation, but that the police did not even have a phone to alert nearby policemen.

The President, who motored to Antipolo upon arriving from Baras, Catanduanes, at around noon, did not ask to see the suspect, Thomas Fuller.

Valderama's confirmation that it was Fuller who had robbed her was apparently enough. Fuller was arrested in connection with another robbery incident a few days ago.

"The plight of my manicurist reflects the plight of ordinary people victimized by criminals," the President told reporters.

She added: "We should not tolerate pockets of lawlessness in our poor communities. We must make sure that ordinary people have the mantle of law enforcement and law protection, just like the more affluent areas."

The other day, Ms Macapagal said she would keep on presenting suspects despite criticisms that she was violating their rights.

She said she would "teach the lesson by humiliation, if necessary."

Bunye, a lawyer by profession, said suspects were still presumed innocent until proven guilty even if the President paraded them.

"It's a judgment call. We can always argue with the call, but this is a policy that is adopted and the President is really firm about it," he said.

"I would like the President to adopt her own style in pursuing the campaign. The important thing is she's trying very hard to address the problem of criminality. And these efforts are bearing fruit as far as we are concerned," he added.

Gross violation

Rosales expressed alarm at the President's earlier statement that she would continue to parade suspects. "She's grossly violating the rights of hapless and helpless citizens who have no power at all against the might of the President," the lawmaker said in a phone interview.

Rosales said she did not agree with what the President was doing because "a person is always presumed innocent until proven otherwise, in accordance with the United Nations' human rights declaration, the country's Constitution and its enabling laws."

She said the mere presentation of crime suspects by a high-ranking official such as the President was likely to "unduly influence the judicial processes."

"It's enough that she sends a directive," Rosales said. "She should leave the implementation to law enforcement agencies."

Rosales said HB 181 would make the practice of presenting crime suspects illegal.

Under the House-approved measure, she said, "no person arrested, detained or under custodial investigation should be put on public display in handcuffs or with name tags or other tags in any manner causing or tending to cause degradation, humiliation, dishonor, discredit, ridicule or contempt."

She said this provision was not in the old law, Republic Act No. 7438, or "an act defining certain rights of persons arrested, detained or under custodial investigation as well as the duties of the arresting, detaining and investigating officers and providing penalties thereof."

Rosales said that in her Aug. 8 letter to Pangilinan—her second letter to the senator since January—she wrote: "We live in a society under the rule of law, and such blatant violation of the constitutional right to be presumed innocent until proven otherwise places human rights as the least consideration in the government's overzealousness to fight criminality in our country."

She said she also asked Pangilinan for committee action on HB 4281, or "an act declaring Dec. 4-10 as National Human Rights Consciousness Week in the country, and for other purposes."

She expressed the hope that both HB 181 and HB 4821 would be enacted into law before Dec. 10, the 54th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Ramirez

In a statement, Oreta chided Malacañang for "refusing to acknowledge its slip-up in wrongly tagging (Landbank cashier) Ramirez as a suspect."

"If this is the way Malacañang treats whistle-blowers, then it better write finis to its drive against official corruption," she said.

Oreta's colleague in the opposition, Sen. Edgardo Angara, also assailed the President's practice of parading suspects, saying it was "nothing but image-making."

Angara said at a press conference at the Municipal Conference Hall in Mercedes, Camarines Norte, that as the highest official of the country, the President should "render justice to everyone."

"But she is overturning the presumption of innocence," he said.

He also said Ms Macapagal was cheapening her function as President. ***With a report from Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

THE PRESIDENT'S DAY includes meeting the remains of Adelina Cunanan and Rebecca Ruga and condoling with their families.

JERRY N. CARUAL

SECURITY risk? A boy with his toy gun is among the welcoming throng for President Macapagal on her visit to Baras, Catanduanes on Friday. The day before there had been an encounter between government forces and the NPA in a nearby town.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Gloria . . .

From page A1

be acceptable to the conservative Roman Catholic Church because it does not involve artificial contraceptives.

The President leased to the town of Baras, Catanduanes, two power generator sets to address the town's power shortage problem.

"We have several children because we have many brownouts. If we want to lessen the birth rate, let's reduce the incidence of brownout," Ms Macapagal said in jest during the town's fiesta celebration.

According to the President's logic, these generators will not only provide the town with ample power supply but will induce couples to do other things aside from having sex because they won't be hitting the sack early like they used to during brownouts.

"We are committed Catholics, father," Ms Macapagal said, addressing the town's parish priest.

The Catholic Church prohibits the use of artificial contraceptives like condoms and birth control pills. Ms Macapagal, has previously declared that her administration will strongly promote so-called "natural" family planning methods, which the Church finds acceptable.

The President noted that Baras' power shortage of 2,600 kilowatts would be addressed by the two generator sets provided by the state-owned National Power Corp. The generators will arrive in the capital town of Virac on Sunday.

"That's why cross your fingers because you'll have relief by Tuesday," Ms Macapagal told town residents.

The President also brought other "gifts" during her visit to Catanduanes. She ordered the allocation of some P3 million for the construction and improvement of farm-to-market roads in the province and she distributed 1,068 health cards to beneficiaries for health insurance coverage.

NBI chief takes new tack amid firestorm

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT'S not just President Macapagal-Arroyo but also her ousted predecessor who was a victim of *kuryente* (false information).

This was the new tack taken by National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco in defending the administration from a firestorm of criticism in connection with its recent blunders.

Wycoco yesterday told reporters that during the Ramos administration, the then Vice President Joseph Estrada was similarly victimized.

According to Wycoco, Estrada, then chief of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, even erred twice—when he presented police officers Jose Pring and Timoteo Zarcal as criminals to the media, and when he said that only P300,000 was recovered from the members of the Kuratong Baleleng syndicate.

Pring and Zarcal protested the treatment that they got and were later released, and witnesses to the Kuratong Baleleng "rubout" said the PACC recovered $2 million and P25 million from the gang members, who were subsequently killed in an alleged shootout.

Wycoco also defended the NBI's continued investigation of Land Bank of the Philippines cashier Acsa Ramirez despite the bank's confirmation that it was she who blew the whistle on the P203-million tax scam.

"The perception is that we are persecuting her. But she should not get mad at us. We are not persecuting her," Wycoco said.

Landbank president Margarito Teves said Thursday that there would have been no controversy had the NBI not presented Ramirez to the media. He said the bureau should "say something about it."

Money laundering

But Wycoco continued to stand by his decision not to apologize to Ramirez.

He said the NBI was only doing its job in investigating Ramirez, not for being a member of the tax diversion syndicate, but for her failure to report to the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) several transactions worth "P4 million and above."

Wycoco said the transactions occurred between April, when Ramirez became cashier at Landbank Binangonan, and June 17, when the spurious P26-billion Bonsalagen account was opened, but were not reported to the AMLC.

The law states that "anyone" who learns about any transaction involving P4 million and above should report it, he said.

But according to Ramirez's lawyer Virginia Suarez-Pinlac, it was her client who exposed the Bonsalagen account.

The exposé led the Landbank and the Bureau of Internal Revenue to conduct a special audit, in which it was discovered that the syndicate used four fraudulent accounts—under the fictitious names Roberto S. Lucero, Alma A. Clemente, Jose M. Francisco and Joven C. Aquino—for the tax diversion.

The Landbank subsequently suspended and charged branch manager Artemio San Juan, Ramirez's predecessor Ramon Joven and the new accounts clerk. Along with the BIR, it reported the matter to Malacañang, which then ordered the Department of Justice and the NBI to look into the scam.

Wycoco said the four fraudulent accounts were opened during Joven's term but that transactions continued even during Ramirez's time.

Suspect or not?

But Wycoco would not say on record that Ramirez was now a suspect.

Asked about her present status, he said: "She will be investigated again because of the order of the AMLC."

With the AMLC order, the NBI can now inspect bank documents—something it could not do earlier because of the bank secrecy law.

Wycoco said the investigation of Ramirez was based on San Juan's sworn statement.

Kintanar aides stalk Nida slay witness

From page A1

who did not specify in his affidavit where Salutin was residing. Salutin knew the aides and identified them as Jerry and Peejay.

Cruz also disclosed that after Kintanar's aides had left, a staff of the Gaitano Security Agency, which is also owned by Kintanar, telephoned Salutin's home and asked about him.

He added that this was not the first time that somebody came looking for Salutin, recalling that an unidentified man also turned up at Salutin's neighborhood on Aug. 2 and asked about the witness.

Eyewitness?

Salutin, who's also a former security guard of Kintanar, had told investigators that he had seen an American wearing a cowboy hat walk in and out of Kintanar's apartment in Quezon City sometime in September or October last year.

He later learned that the foreigner was Blanca's husband, Rod Lauren Strunk, when he saw him on TV.

Kintanar's name first surfaced because Strunk's co-accused, Philip Medel Jr., was staying at his rented apartment in Kamias, Quezon City. But Kintanar has repeatedly denied any involvement in the crime.

Downgraded to murder

With only three days to go before the justice department begins its preliminary investigation of the Nida Blanca murder case, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the parricide charges against Strunk might be downgraded to murder.

Wycoco told reporters yesterday that former Commission on Elections Chair Harriet Demetriou, the lawyer of Blanca's daughter Kaye Torres, advised the NBI to amend the charge against Strunk since his marriage to the slain actress was "void."

"Lawyer Harriet Demetriou said Blanca's wedding to Strunk was void. On that aspect, if they were not married in accordance with Philippine laws, parricide won't apply," Wycoco said.

Blanca married Strunk in the United States on Feb. 5, 1981, the same day she divorced her first husband Victorino Torres.

"She (Demetriou) suggested that the case be changed from parricide to murder. But we'll talk about it in the preliminary investigation," Wycoco said.

Parricide and murder have the same penalty but the bureau is apparently concerned that Strunk's defense lawyer might use questions about Strunk's marriage to Blanca to delay the case or to have it thrown out entirely.

On Monday, the Department of Justice panel conducting the preliminary investigation on the Blanca case will hold its initial hearing.

Demetriou will be acting as a private prosecutor on behalf of Torres and her grandmother.

Besides Strunk and Medel, the NBI has charged two John Does, a lesbian-looking "Jean" Doe with murder.

Three Atlanta Center Building security guards were also charged with obstruction of justice.

It was at the Atlanta Center in San Juan that Blanca was found gruesomely murdered on Nov. 7 last year.

Supplemental evidence

Salutin's testimony had been submitted as a supplemental evidence to the murder charges filed against the accused before the Department of Justice.

Director Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, had earlier recommended that Salutin, along with retired Army Maj. Pedro Pates Jr. and Leonilo Gonzaga, be placed under the DOJ's witness protection program.

He said that the three feared for their lives, noting that some suspicious-looking men had been casing their homes or sending text messages threatening them.

Pates and Gonzaga, who both had stayed in Medel's rented apartment in Quezon City, told police that they had been asked separately by Medel if they knew of a hired gun who could be contracted to kill an actress last year.

Both also testified that one retired Col. Benny Letrondo had suggested that they would think of "an effective damage control" to keep Kintanar's name from being dragged into the case in the presence of Kintanar himself.

The meeting happened in Kintanar's residence in Quezon City in November last year, days before Medel retracted his confession that he killed Blanca on the orders of Strunk.

'If we are told to, we will stop'

Editor's Note: Danilo Gozo, a member of the Pagcor board, and Rene Figueroa, deputy chief of staff for operations, answered questions about the seeming proliferation of slot machines outside the casinos. The questions have been partially paraphrased, but their answers are verbatim.

Does the President know (about the slot machine arcades)?

Gozo: The mandate of Pagcor is to regulate and operate. It's unique as a regulatory agency (because it has) operational responsibility. *Ang kita ng Pagcor* (Pagcor's profit) goes straight to government . . .

Why partner with private contractors?

Figueroa: *Hindi sila* (They are not) partners, okay? They have equipment we do not have, okay? And they lease this equipment to us.

Figueroa: *Meron equipment na ginagamit na at present hindi ginagamit sa mga casinos* (Some equipment is already in use that our casinos did not have before). In fact, what we intend to use is something that is being used in the Aussie casinos, which is a tokenless system.

Figueroa: We do not have the technology. *Wala pa sa amin* (We don't have it yet.) *Meron silang experience dito sa* (They have experience in the) same business.

What are the terms?

Figueroa: *Ang upa namin* (Our rent) is 40 percent of net winning less payout or *panalo*. Aside from the use of equipment, okay? As a sign of goodwill they have offered to shoulder all expenses—capital and operating—except salaries.

Figueroa: We think that is equitable; (we) share in expenses and risks.

Why do we need more gambling outlets like slot machine arcades?

Figueroa: Because we need to decongest existing casinos.

Why are you expanding?

Gozo: *Ang aming inaalok ay maintindihan ng karamihan* (What we offer is easy to understand), *na yong requirements na binibigay ng* (that the requirements imposed on us by Congress put pressure on the organization to produce income. *Kung hindi, hindi namin mapupundohan* (If not, we won't be able to fund government projects).

Gozo: *Ang objective namin diyan* (Our objective there) is related to the tourism expansion, *para dumami ang foreigners na pupunta rito. At maging turista sa ating bansa. . . . Ang thrust namin is* actually international.

Is there a go signal from the President?

Gozo: Our charter allows us to do that. If we are told to stop it, we will stop.

Excerpts from an interview conducted by Bernadette Sembrano for the Probe Team on Aug. 5; printed with permission.

A business . . .

From page A1

Besides, he asked, what is wrong with a 60-40 arrangement which is equitable for Pagcor? He noted that during the term of longtime Pagcor chair Alice Reyes, the company had entered into 20-80 contracts—such as Bingo Pilipino—with Pagcor receiving only 20 percent of the revenue.

He said Ray Peter Vivo, the former managing head of gaming operations who was eased out of Pagcor last February, was a "polluted source" and therefore could not be trusted. "This guy committed infractions against the company," Ortaleza said. "And what about the 20-80 contracts he was part of as well under Mrs. Reyes?" he added.

Vivo, one of the INQUIRER's sources for the accompanying story, had "an axe to grind," Ortaleza said. "Disgruntled people are not necessarily truthful," he said.

John Nery

Pagcor to flood RP with slot machines

From page A1

serious questions, however. Financially, they put the government at a disadvantage because they allow a 60-40 sharing arrangement between Pagcor and the private contractors. Legally, they run against the Supreme Court ruling barring Pagcor from entering into joint venture contracts. And culturally, they bring the slot machines out of the casino and—almost literally—into the streets.

At least eight of the contracts were approved by the new Pagcor board of directors on March 13, 2001, or less than two months after Ms Macapagal was swept to power over public indignation against gambling. Seven contracts were approved a month later, on April 17. Five more were approved on June 26, 2001.

The first slot machine arcade, at the CityState Hotel, was inaugurated only this month, on Aug. 1. Four more were to have been launched on Thursday, but Pagcor insiders said this was put on hold indefinitely after The Probe Team's report on slot machines broke last Tuesday.

Since April, the INQUIRER has sought an answer from Efraim Genuino, Pagcor chair and president, but was repeatedly told that Genuino, appointed by the President in January last year, the same month she took office, was unavailable.

Yesterday, Pagcor's managing head for PR and advertising, Gryk Ortaleza, presented the company's side. His replies, together with statements two top company officials gave to The Probe Team, are in the accompanying story.

Arrangement

The former managing head of Pagcor's gaming department, Ray Peter Vivo, called the contracts "disadvantageous" to the government, because of the 60-40 sharing arrangement. The "40 percent supposed to be allotted to the government" will instead go to the investor, Vivo told the INQUIRER.

He questioned the rationale Pagcor officials were using to defend the contracts. It isn't true that the gaming agency, one of the country's most profitable companies, could not afford the expansion without outside investors, he said. "It is proven that Pagcor has the capacity to operate slot machines in casinos or arcades," he said.

Vivo was eased out of Pagcor last February, ostensibly for "lack of trust and confidence," "rumormongering" and other similar reasons. As department head, Vivo was responsible for all gaming operations.

Another Pagcor source, who requested anonymity, said similar proposals for slot machine arcades were "put on hold" sometime in 2000—apparently in reaction to growing public unease over the spread of legalized gambling in the last months of the Estrada administration. The source noted, however, that the proposals were "Pagcor-operated," or 100-percent run by the company, in contrast to the contracts approved under the new board, which split the profits 60-40.

"Sobra-sobra ang kikitain ng investors (Investors will earn too much at the expense of the government)," the source added. Aside from Genuino, the other board directors are Danilo Gozo, Luis Carlos, Domingo Calajate and Manuel Roxas.

The INQUIRER learned from other Pagcor employees that as much as 30 percent of the company's revenues come from the 3,000 slot machines inside its casinos. With revenues last year of some P16 billion, slot machines therefore account for some P4.8 billion.

If the 2,000 additional slot machines enjoy the same volume of business, they will generate some P3.2 billion—but less than P2 billion will go to Pagcor.

The contracts phrase the "consideration" of Pagcor as follows: "Pagcor shall be entitled to management fees on a monthly basis equivalent to sixty percent of the slot machine arcade's gross revenue, after deducting the players' winnings/prizes and the taxes that may be imposed on these winnings/prizes."

Sites and operators

The 11 arcades that are already open or will be launched in the next two months are located in the following sites: Pan Pacific Hotel in Manila, Networld Hotel in Manila, 2808 Taft Ave. Extension in Pasay City, the Baclaran LRT Terminal, 122 Colon corner Legaspi streets in Cebu City, Osmeña Boulevard corner Laurento Street in Cebu City, Apo View Hotel in Davao City, Sta. Lucia Mall in Cainta, Rizal, Citystate Tower Hotel, Lucky Strike in Divisoria, and Chicks o'clock in Avenida. The last three will be operated by Pagcor. The first eight have been contracted out to private parties.

Pacific Palm Corp. has contracts for four arcades: Pan Pacific, Networld, Apo View and Sta. Lucia Mall. The company is identified in the contracts as "an affiliate" of the Palmgold Corporation Sdn. Bhd. Group of companies. With offices at the Ramon Magsaysay Center on Roxas Boulevard in Manila, Pacific Palm is represented in the contracts by its Director, Mr. Yap Boon Ming, of Melaka, Malaysia.

Pan Pacific's arcade is on the 2nd, 3rd and 5th levels of the hotel, which is located on Adriatico Street in Malate, Manila. The slot machines in Networld will be at the basement of the hotel, sited at the Jipang Building, also on Roxas Boulevard.

The Osmeña corner Laurente site in Cebu will be operated by Platinum Gaming and Entertainment Corp., with offices at Plaridel Street in Mandaue City. Its president, Ma. Lourdes Go, signed the contract. The other Cebu site, at Colon corner Legaspi, will be operated by Waz Lian Management Philippines Inc., with offices at Tower 1 of the Enterprise Center in Makati City. Its contract was signed by company chair Datu Ta Kin Yan, a Malaysian national.

The Taft Avenue extension site will be operated by the Six-in-One Amusement and Entertainment Corp., with offices in M. H. del Pilar, Ermita, Manila. Its president, Cesar Marcelo, signed on behalf of Six-in-One.

Both Go and Marcelo are Filipino citizens.

A third Pagcor executive, who also requested anonymity, said the contracts were "defective on the legal side" because the Supreme Court had already ruled, in the controversial jai alai case, that Pagcor—a company created by law—cannot enter into joint ventures. The executive said the contracts also allow private parties to own slot machines, which is prohibited by law.

The executive said the arcades will also make casino-type games "so conveniently accessible" to the public.

Manila council

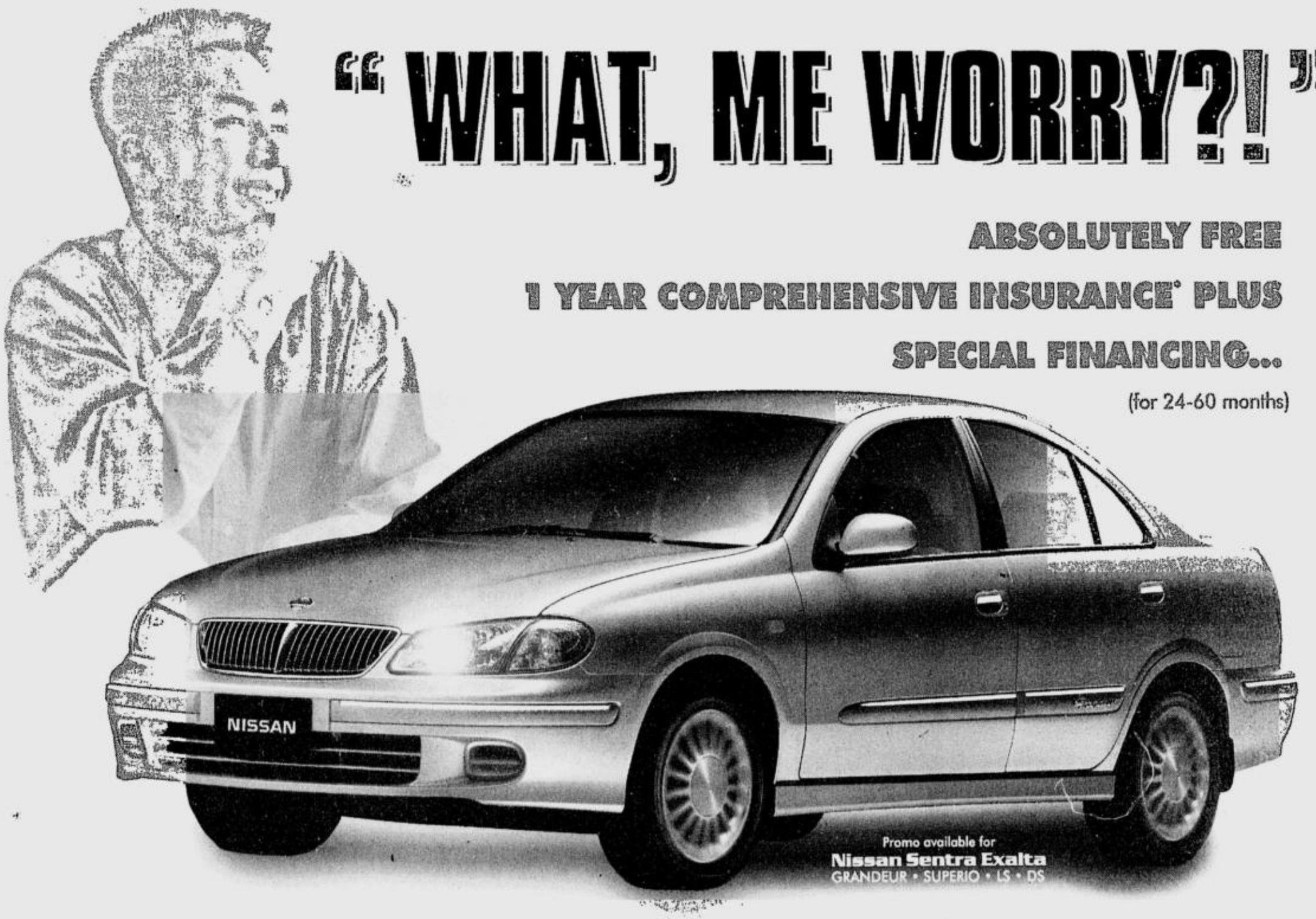
In Manila, a city councilor yesterday demanded an investigation into the spread of small casinos and slot machine arcades owned by foreign companies allowed to operate in the capital without any permit from City Hall.

Councilor Joseph Lopez of the third district also accused Pagcor of operating slot machines outside its two authorized casinos in the city.

Pagcor has subleased some of its spaces and operations including property to foreign companies, mostly Korean and Hong Kong firms, for monthly fees, Lopez said in his proposed resolution.

Lopez said he had himself seen many slot machines outside Pagcor's Casino Filipino centers in the Holiday Inn and Grand Boulevard Hotels.

"The foreign firms that use the Pagcor franchise should first secure the necessary permits from City Hall before engaging in the business," he said in a phone interview. ***With a report from Jerome Aning***



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NCR-Rizal for Luzon football crown

IT WILL be highly rated NCR (National Capital Region) against underdog Rizal Province in the Luzon football finals today at the Philsports field in Pasig city.

NCR, bannered by Philippine Air Force, set the stage for the crown showdown at 1:30 p.m. by beating a hard-fighting Masbate City squad, 2-0 yesterday.

Randy Bela-Ong and Harold Bayona produced the two NCR markers in the first half of the exciting match.

The Rizalians blanked Baguio, 3-0, earlier in the day to clinch the first finals slot.

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Arroyo's nephew seeks gold

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MARCUS Araneta Valda is slowly turning the Southeast Asian Wrestling Championships into his own playground after scoring big wins yesterday in the freestyle category at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Valda, who won a gold medal Thursday in the Greco-Roman event, first beat fellow Filipino Rey Torres by superiority before downing two Indonesians for a clear shot of the 96-kg gold.

His Indonesian victims were Ronachai Sawangpong and Nur Nurseto.

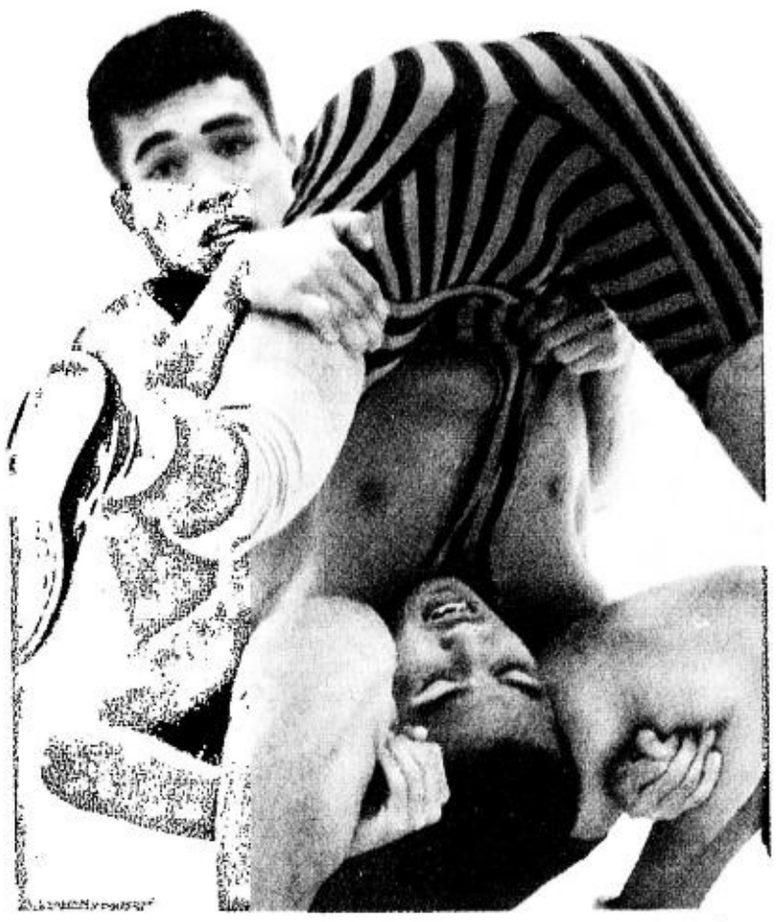
The 21-year-old Valda, who will make it to the Busan Asian Games with gold-producing efforts in the event, only needs to beat Vietnam's Ho Si Ninh today to capture his second gold medal.

"I still don't want to get very excited because I know that Ho is a very calculating opponent," said Valda, a nephew of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

Sharing the spotlight with Valda was Jimmy Angana who notched three impressive victories over a Malaysian, an Indonesian and a fellow Filipino to also move within a win away from taking his first gold medal in the tournament.

Angana, who campaigns under the Philippine Team B, won by superiority over Malaysia's Che Mohd Aleft Ambu before taking out Zulhaidir of Indonesia, also by superiority.

For his third victory of the day, Angana shocked the crowd when he pinned Greco-Roman gold winner Melchor Tumasis in just one minute and 12 seconds of their 60-kg match. He will go for the gold against Pahn Duc Thang of Vietnam today.



ANGANA (left) all set to pin down Malaysia's Che Mohd Aleft Ambu yesterday in the Southeast Asian Wrestling Championships. Angana won by superiority. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

San Sebastian trips Mapua

GAMES MONDAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m. —UPHR vs PCU (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs CSB (jrs/srs)

By June Navarro

SAN Sebastian College continued its climb to the top after a scary 87-82 win over Mapua yesterday in the 78th NCAA basketball tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

Nicole Uy's gamelong brilliance and Christian Coronel's wily plays helped ward off the Cardinals' stubborn stand at crunchtime as the Stags tied Philippine Christian University at second place with six wins against two setbacks.

The defending champion Stags are now one game behind tournament leader College of St. Benilde (7-1) while the Cardinals dropped their second game in a row for a pitiful 3-5 win-loss slate.

In the second game, Jose Rizal University bucked Letran's furious rally in the dying minutes of the game to prevail, 80-76.

With JRU ahead, 78-76 with seconds left, Letran's Dale Santos missed the tying shot on an almost unmolested layup with three ticks left after receiving a crosscourt pass from Ronjay Enrile. That spelled doom for the Knights, who had rallied from 15 points.

Santos' blooper negated back-to-back hits by Boyet Bautista and Enrile that brought Letran to within overtime distance.

The Heavy Bombers improved their record to 5-3 while dealing the Knights their fifth defeat in eight games to put them in a tie with the Cardinals.

Uy stripped the ball from the hands of Cardinal Edsel Feliciano with the nine seconds left and the Stags ahead, 83-82, putting the Cardinals' final push in peril.

The Cardinals could have knotted the count had Nathaniel Cruz sunk both his freethrows and Roby David's desperation triple found its mark as time expired.

Coronel, last year's Finals MVP, fired 20 points and Uy added 19 for the Stags, who also got the better of the Cardinals in the first round.

Football action tomorrow

SEVENTEEN teams, led by defending champion Philippine Army, will vie for honors in the second Army-Utilco International Invitational Football Cup tournament which kicks off at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

Army will see action in the First Division together with newly crowned NCRFA titlist Kaya FC, San Beda, UST and University of the Philippines.

The rest of the teams, namely, Headquarters Philippine Air Force, FEU, Sunday FC, PCU-Dasmariñas, Army B, College of St. Benilde, Korea, University of the East, El Magistrado, De La Salle University, Pasargard and MIT-Mapua, will compete in the second division.

Tomorrow's opening matches pit Army against Kaya at 10 a.m., HPAF against FEU at 1 p.m. and San Beda against UST at 3 p.m.

Second Division teams have been divided into three groups. HPAF, FEU, Sunday and PCU Dasmariñas are in Group A, Army B, CSB, Korea and UE are in the Group B and El Magistrado, DLSU, Pasargard and MIT-Mapua are in Group C.

Perfect tandem

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE FORBIDDING presence of Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the Philippine team that will compete in the billiards event for next month's Busan Asian Games will surely make the opposition tremble in fear and boost further the country's chances of winning medals in the region's version of the Olympics.

And it would do well for officials of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines led by president Ernie Fajardo and coach Ramon Ancaja to fortify that bid by fielding Reyes and Bustamante in the Asiad's 9-ball doubles event where they are clearly comfortable playing with each other as a tandem. In the 9-ball doubles in Busan, Bustamante is paired with Antonio "Nikoy" Lining, whom he defeated in a Final 16 match in the recent World Pool 9-Ball Championship in Cardiff, Wales. Lining will also play in the 9-ball singles together with Warren Kiamco.

On the other hand, Reyes is entered in the 8-ball singles, an event which he felt was not the best for him because his chances of winning in the 8-ball singles are slimmer compared to the 9-ball where, in 1999, for example, he emerged world champion in Cardiff, Lee Van Corteza is the other Filipino entry in the Asiad 8-ball event.

Although Lining is a worthy choice in the 9-ball competitions, Bustamante said he would still pick Reyes over Lining as his partner in the 9-ball doubles. Speaking in Tagalog, Bustamante said, "Kung kay Lining 75 percent kaming sigurado na mananalo, pero pag kay Efren, mga 95 percent."

If we really want to field only the best in the Asian Games, billiards officials should enter Reyes and Bustamante in the 9-ball doubles because they are the perfect pair for that particular event because they have all the advantages; they are clearly in peak form, well-trained, much traveled and well-funded. Through the years, Reyes and Bustamante are the lead players of the highly successful Puyat Sports stable bankrolled by brothers Popit and Putch Puyat, the moving spirit behind the enormous popularity of billiards in the country.

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3. Barnoga, Evelyn	#38 Raniag, Ramon Isabela	Manless Tiangco Bayanihan
4. Bernardo, Abner	Cabiao, Nueva Ecija	Revy Chaliongco Rolan's Poultry Supply
5. Capuno, Nilo	c/o Nikki's Mktg. Tagum City	Lyn Miguela Lorejo PJ Agrivet Supply
6. Castillo, Corazon	444 P. Reyes St., Poblacion Pulilan, Bulacan	Jun-Jun Pastrana Bimbol Trading
7. Chan, Vincent	108 R.N. Abuejueva St., Cagayan de Oro City	Elsie Obial Tatamy Agrivet
8. Chongko, Rebecca Chan	Cabiao, Nueva Ecija	Revy Chaliongco Rolan's Poultry Supply
9. Dela Cruz, Ben	Brgy. Cayaon, Canlig Tarlac	Pedro Alegado New Inalves Farm Supply
10. Dela Cruz, Rudy	c/o Richport Diesel Corp. Iloilo	Jobert Quevallno Yet Yeen Poultry Supply
11. Delos Reyes, Chris	Ayusan Norte, Vigan City Ilocos Sur	Gliceria Co Vigan Purefeeds Center
12. Escoto, Roberto	41-A Flamengo St., Panghulo Obando, Bulacan	Wilma Calambro Progressive Poultry Supply
13. Esguerra, Juquir	Amistad, Alicia, Isabela	Sheryl Salvador Alicia Vet Supply
14. Espia, Rosanita	Agluman, Laybunao Iloilo	Jobert Germaine Yet Yeen Poultry Supply
15. Estilloso, Lorie	Villa San Roque Subd. Quilib, Rosario, Batangas	Maricel Quinay St. John Veterinary Supply
16. Flora, Arnel	341 Bonifacio St., Baguio City	Rene Lanuzga Megamix Poultry Supply
17. Galvo, Lauro	Malewalo Sons Tarlac City	Jessie Morte Bermudez Agrovet
18. Geronimo, Marlon	San Pablo, Jaen Nueva Ecija	Yost-Boh Verdillo House of Cockers & Animal Supply
19. Hernandez, Irene	Jose Abad Santos, Purok 4 Siran, Gua-gua, Pampanga	Jovic Calilung A.S. Twaño Poultry Supply
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36. Pama, Vic-vic	Lav Ave.,Valenzuela City	Isalde Docillo Mbabela Enterprise
37. Quintos, Hector	Cayaoan, Camiling Tarlac	Ma. Teresa Quizon MTC Quizon Poultry Supply
38. Ranches, Glecy	Victoria, Alaminos Pangasinan	Virgie Ferrer C & T Store I
39. Reyes, Antonia	Sto. Cristo Norte, Gapan City	Yasmin Mateo Caro Vet & Agrivet Supply
40. Roque, Lando	Vintero, Laoag Ilocos Norte	Lorna Labao Namnama Trading
41. Salvador, Teddy	Caoayan, Vigan Ilocos Sur	Grace Ritualo Seguban Enterprise
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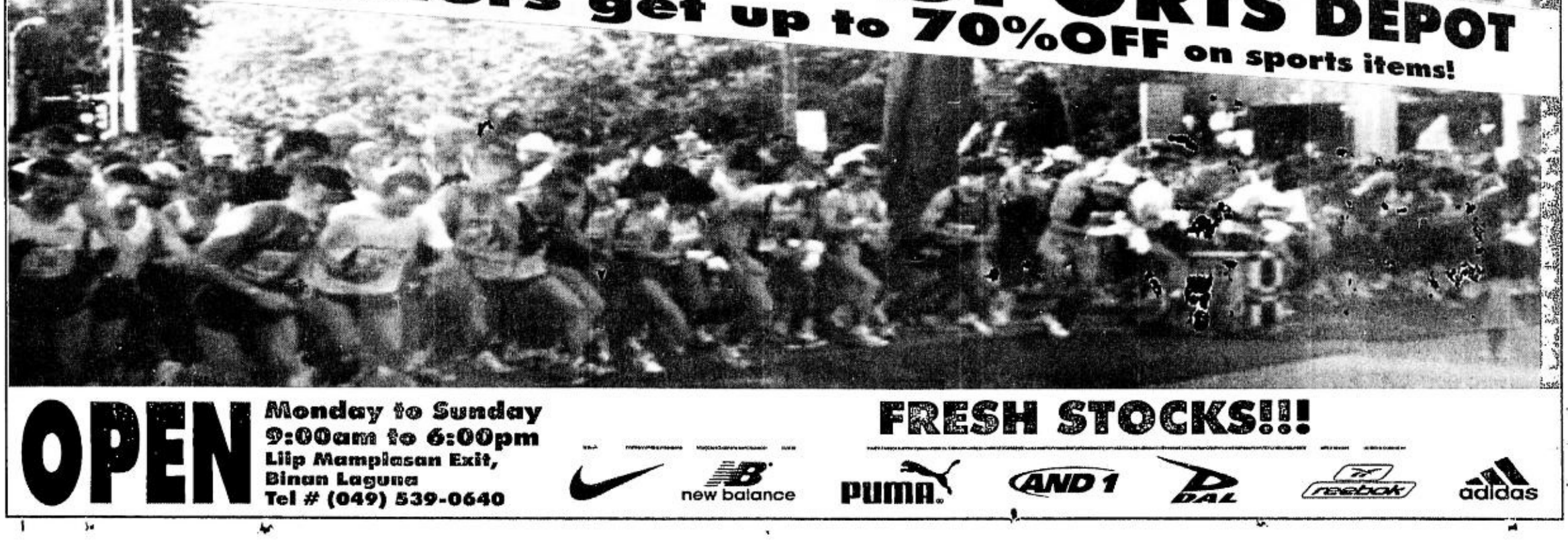

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Pinoy golfers to NZ

BING Bunyi, Alex Montelibano and Balty Baltazar were the top three finishers in the APGC qualifying tournament held Aug. 8-9 at the Riviera Country Club.

The three will be joining Commodore Danilo-Pizarro, Caloy Coscolluela and Richie Garcia in the 12th Asia-Pacific Senior Amateur Championships slated Nov. 13-15 at the Mt. Maunganui Golf Club in New Zealand.

The New Zealand meet, which is open to 55 years and above, will be participated in by 23 countries.

ROSALES: Back spasms gone. FILE PHOTO

BRITISH OPEN

Jenny trails leader by 4 shots

FULLY recovered from her harrowing bout with severe back spasms last week, Jenny Rosales regained her deadly form to shoot a three-under-par 69 yesterday and earn a share of 12th place in the $1.5-million Weetabix British Open in Turnberry, Scotland.

The late-starting Rosales put on a fiery finish of three birdies on her final five holes despite the swirling winds to stay four strokes behind leader Candie Kung, a Taiwanese based in California who fired a course-record 65.

Dorothy Delasin likewise got off to a big start with a 70, good for 24th as the chase for the $243,000 (about P12 million) first prize opened with surprise names in the leaderboard.

Rosales was forced to withdraw in the second round of the Wendy's event last week in Ohio because of back spasms caused by what her mother described as "a very rigid schedule."

It also ended her streak of seven straight tournaments that saw her make the cut.

Jenny, who is eyeing a place in the season-ending Samsung World Championship featuring the Tour's Top 30 players, had 4 bogeys against a three-putt bogey on 15.

Delasin, the defending champion of the Samsung event, had 6 birdies against 4 bogeys. Rosales has an early tee-off for the second round (9:17 a.m.) while Delasin gets going at 2:46 p.m. ***Jong Arcano***

Woods shoots 67, 2 strokes behind Jones

GRAND BLANC, Michigan—Tiger Woods, in his first tournament since his Grand Slam chances ended at the British Open, shot a 5-under 67 Thursday and was two strokes behind first-round leader Kent Jones at the Buick Open.

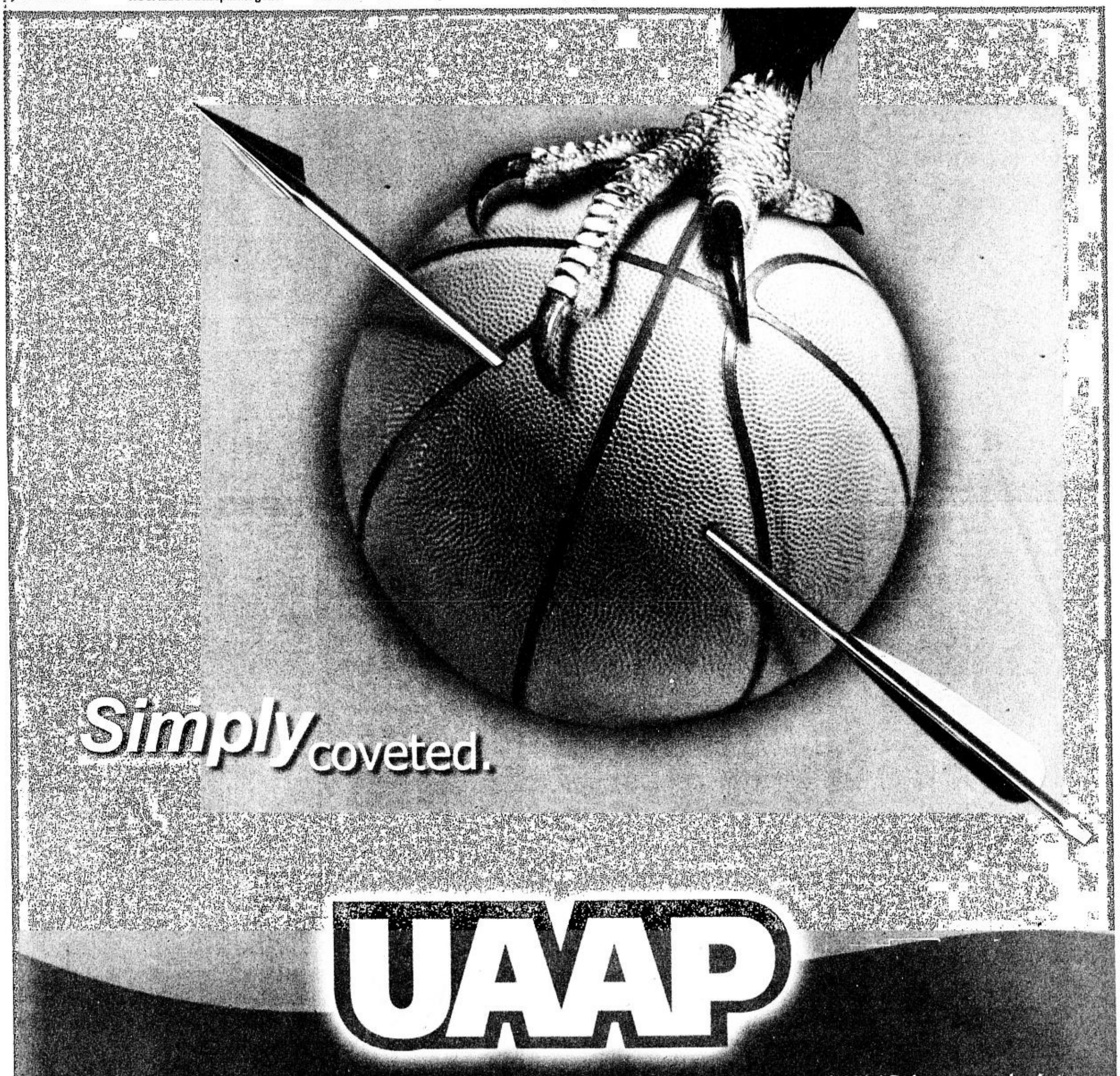
Mark Brooks and K.J. Choi shot 66s.

Woods, who led a group of nine that included Hal Sutton, started solid and finished strong with two birdies in his last three holes. His iron play was excellent, but his putting was inconsistent.

Another group of 14—including Mark O'Meara and David Toms, who will defend his PGA Championship next week—had 68s.

Woods was making his third PGA Tour start in 11 weeks.

He was the first player since Jack Nicklaus in 1972 to win the first two legs of the Grand Slam—the Masters and the US Open—but an 81 in third round of the British Open at Muirfield ended the chance at winning the third leg. The PGA Championship, at Hazeltine in Minnesota, is the fourth major. ***AP***



PBA Today
(Philsports)
3:45 p.m.—Purefoods vs Shell
5:45 p.m.—Ginebra vs FedEx

FOUR DIGIT: Luzon 2 0 1 9 (in exact order); Vis / Min 6 5 6 2

MEGALOTTO 6/45: 24 21 37 27 17 35

SUERTRES: 2 2 3

La Salle eyes 1st round sweep vs Ateneo

By Dennis U. Eroa

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	6	0
Ateneo	4	2
UST	4	2
UE	4	2
UP	3	3
Adamson	2	4
FEU	1	5
NU	0	5

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m.—UE vs UST
4 p.m.—Ateneo-La Salle

LA SALLE, looking invincible as the league wears on, seeks a first round sweep as it clashes with arch-rival Ateneo today in the UAAP basketball tournament before an expected sell-out crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

Still unscathed after six games, "five-peat" seeking La Salle will meet an Ateneo lineup hurting from the loss of two-time MVP Rich Alvarez, who is serving a one-game suspension.

THE UAAP Board turned down an appeal filed by Ateneo yesterday seeking to overturn the technical committee's decision suspending Blue Eagle Rich Alvarez in today's Ateneo-La Salle game.

Ateneo's frontline will suffer without the presence of the 6-foot-4 Alvarez, one of the league's top rebounders. Still recuperating from a knee injury is Alvarez's teammate, the 6-foot-6 Paolo Bugia.

"La Salle is always the team to beat. For four years now, the system of the Archers is the envy of many. We're going to the game to learn how to beat La Salle," said Ateneo mentor Joel Banal."If we can win this match, then we've already accomplished something."

La Salle coach Franz Pumaren isn't in the mood to relax.

"Rich's suspension can work both ways," said Pumaren. "Ateneo will be inspired to win this ballgame. It has a very competent lineup and a competent coach."

Burly slotman Carlo Sharma, Manny Ramos, Willy Wilson, Adonis Sta. Maria and Michael Gavino are expected to attack the middle relentlessly. Joseph Yeo, Mike Cortez and Mark Cardona will give the Archers their firepower.

Another plus for La Salle is the return of BJ Manalo after recovering from a foot injury. Manalo had six points in five minutes of action as La Salle tripped Adamson, 74-67, last Aug.6

ALVAREZ: "It is the sportsmanship, which I value and cherish most."

Alvarez denies having thrown 'a closed fist'

BELOW is the letter sent yesterday by Ateneo's Rich Alvarez to Sonny Paguia, president of host National University, emphasizing his stand that "I don't want to be accused of something I did not do or intend to do." It was handcarried to the INQUIRER by Alvarez's father, Rudy. The elder Alvarez, 51, used to play for San Sebastian College and Far Eastern University. He just retired from the US Navy after 26 years of service.

Dear Mr. Paguia:

It is very disappointing to know that the UAAP Technical Committee decided to suspend me for something I did not do or intend to do. Although it may seem like it on the replay of the game, I know I did not do it to harm somebody. It was merely an aggressive act of wanting to be in the right position to get a rebound. During that sequence, I was off-balanced and wanted to ward off Mr. Hate and be in the right position to get a rebound. It was evident in the replay that I was only standing on one foot, while my arm was entangled with Hate's.

By no means was I attempting to throw any kind of "closed fist" punch against Jojo Hate of Adamson last Sunday. I have been playing in this league for four years now, and my attitude on and off the court speaks for itself. More than being the MVP twice in the league, I pride myself for the sportsmanship and have always tried to show by example. It is the sportsmanship, which I value and cherish more than anything.

I have also been a recipient of many kinds of dirty tricks, including being punched several times, but I've never reacted in such a violent manner. At times, I even smiled back at the person. I just play the game and nothing else. I don't mind sitting out one game, but I don't want to be accused of something I did not do or intend to do.

It is with deep regret that I write this letter. But in so doing, I hope I have done well in defending my integrity as an athlete or more precisely, a sportsman—someone who values fair play, courtesy, a striving spirit, and grace in losing above any award the UAAP has bestowed upon me in the past.

Sincerely yours,
(SIGNED) Rich Alvarez

Assumption battles St. Scholastica today

UNIVERSITY of the Assumption-Pampanga seeks a share of the lead today in the 33rd WNCAA-adidas basketball tournament when it tangles with St. Scholastica's College at the SSC gym. The UA Blue Pelicans (1-0) will enter their 4 p.m. game versus the St. Scholastica's College Doves (1-1) riding on the momentum of an 80-56 victory last Sunday over the Siena College Red Lilies (0-1).

Rich's suspension unfortunate, says Archers boss Capistrano

By Dennis U. Eroa

"IT IS unfortunate that a player of Rich's caliber will miss this highly anticipated game."

Thus said La Salle team manager Terry Capistrano on the eve of the Ateneo-La Salle game set for today at the Araneta Coliseum. "I think we owe it to the fans to give them the best at all times."

Capistrano said he was saddened by the suspension of the the 6-foot-4 Rich Alvarez, the two-time MVP from Ateneo who was suspended "for a punching foul" he had allegedly committed exactly seven days ago today during the Ateneo-Adamson game.

Capistrano, La Salle's manager since the 2000 season, described an Archer-Blue Eagle tiff as always "fierce and competitive."

Said Capistrano: "Just like in the past, every La Salle-Ateneo encounter has that magic we all love to watch. It's a pity that Rich is not around to play for Ateneo this time."

But La Salle coach Franz Pumaren said Alvarez's absence will not pose a big problem for Ateneo.

"When Enrico (Villanueva) was suspended last year, the Eagles played inspired basketball and beat Far Eastern University," Pumaren said.

Pumaren also recalled that La Salle was also hit by the suspension of a key player—the 6-foot-5 Carlo Sharma—during the Ateneo-La Salle titular series last year.

The Archers, however, were not as lucky and bowed to the Eagles in Game 2 of the title playoffs which they eventually won, 2-1.

Banal: Life must go on

By Dennis U. Eroa

"LIFE must go on."

Thus said Ateneo coach Joel Banal in reacting to the suspension of his power-playing Rich Alvarez in today's Ateneo-La Salle game at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We have no recourse but to accept the decision of the UAAP board," said Banal. "However, Rich's guilt should be established beyond reasonable doubt (read Alvarez' letter)."

Said Banal: "Rich was crying when we practiced last Thursday. He said the decision was unfair and it tarnished his image."

It was observed that due process was disregarded in resolving the issue.

Alvarez, Jojo Hate of Adamson and the referees who officiated the game weren't given the chance to air their side before the committee arrived at its decision suspending Alvarez. The referee who called a "double foul" on both players was also not summoned to give his side.

UAAP President Sonny Paguia said Ric Matibag, Adamson's representative to the board, asked Commissioner Joe Lipa to look into Alvarez's "punching foul" against Hate during the Ateneo-Adamson game on Aug. 4.

After reviewing the tape, Lipa submitted his findings to the committee headed by Kiko Diaz of the University of the Philippines.

Despite the absence of a complaint from any of the member-schools, Diaz, Brenn Perez of the University of the East and Matibag voted for Alvarez's suspension.

La Salle's board member Ramoncito Campos and Ateneo's Raul Albarece joined in the deliberations but abstained from voting. La Salle also abstained during the special board meeting which heard Ateneo's appeal yesterday at the Casa Español.

The result was 4-1 in favor of the suspension. Two abstained, including National University, being this year's host.

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Korina sued by doc she called 'rude, arrogant'

By Agnes E. Donato and Leah Salterio

SANCHEZ

A DOCTOR-LAWYER has sued television and radio broadcaster Korina Sanchez for P1.5 million because he said she called him "rude and arrogant," among other things, in her morning radio show.

But Sanchez's lawyer, Salvador Panelo, said the complaint has no legal basis.

"The plaintiff was in fact the one rude to Korina," Panelo told the Inquirer last night.

Leo Olarte, a practicing lawyer and an orthopedic surgeon at the St. Luke's Medical Center, filed the civil case against Sanchez before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court yesterday morning.

KORINA/ p. A25

Dismissal of Payatas case 'hard to accept'

By Agnes E. Donato

SURVIVORS and relatives of victims of the July 2000 Payatas landslide yesterday stormed the Ombudsman office to protest the graft court's dismissal of the case they had filed against former Quezon City mayor Ismael Mathay Jr., former Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Jejomar Binay and former Payatas barangay chair Emerita Pecson.

The Ombudsman, earlier dismissed due to a technicality the charges of mass homicide and graft that 23 survivors of the tragedy had filed against the officials.

"We really find this hard to accept," said Delia Badion, president of the July 10 Payatas Victims Organization (J10PVO). "We waited for two years for the Ombudsman decision on this case, only to get a dismissal.

"All we wanted was justice. But the government deprived us of even this," she added.

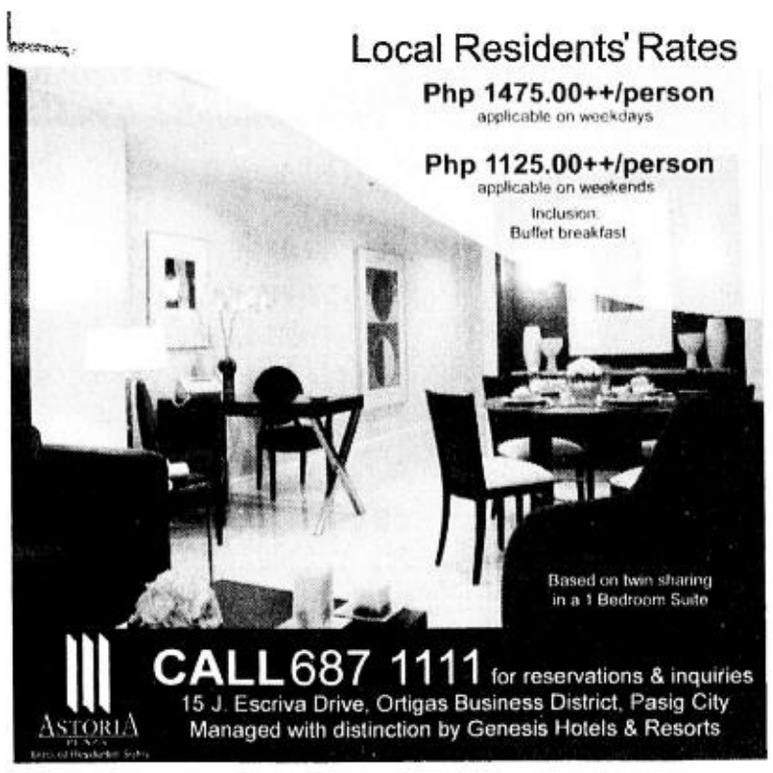
The Ombudsman claimed that the filing by the complainants of a similar civil case before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court had raised the "prejudicial question" on the criminal complaint filed with the Ombudsman's office.

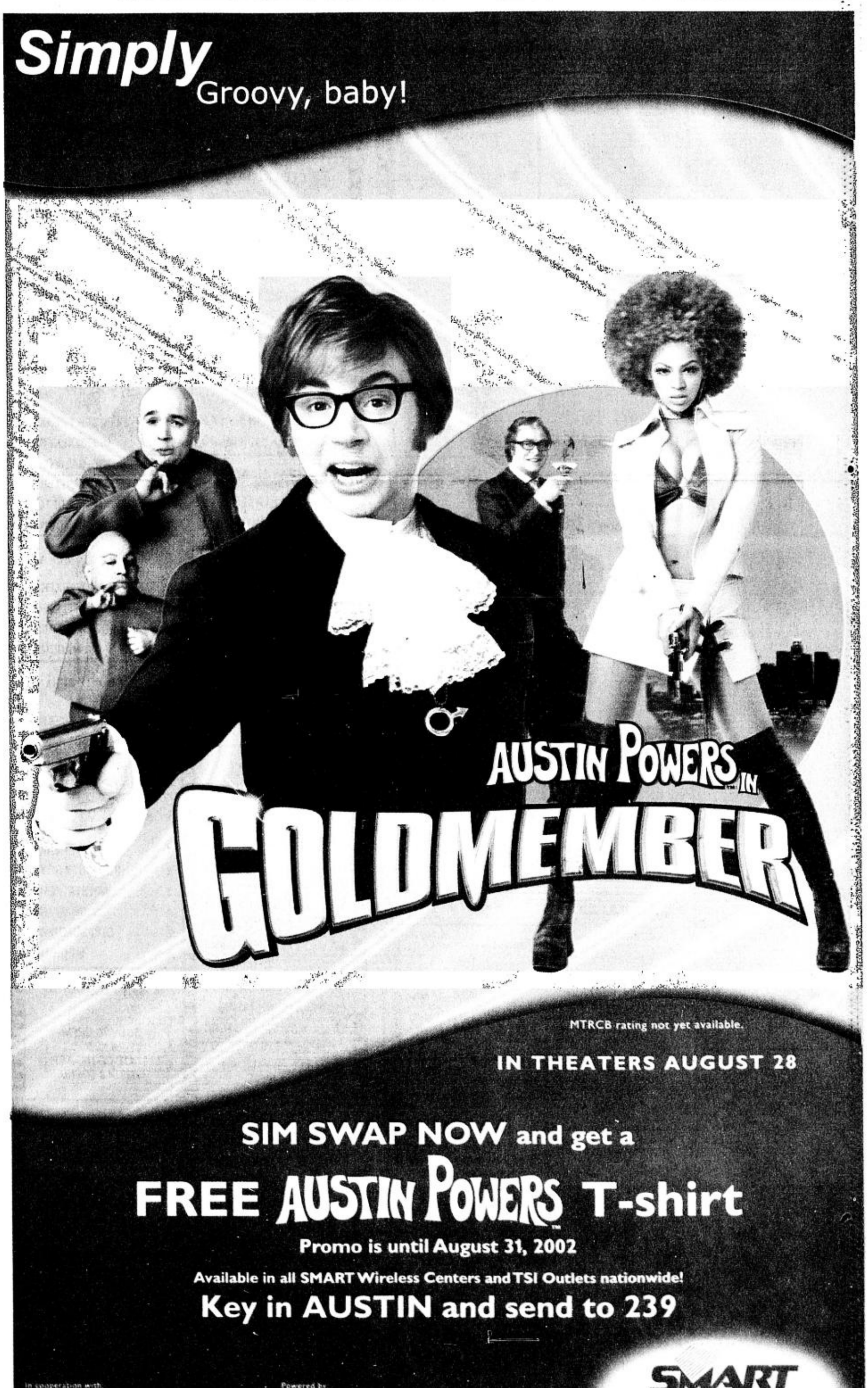
"Obviously, it appears not only that the civil case involves facts intimately related to those upon which the criminal complaint is based, but also the decision of the issue/s raised in the civil case would be determinant of the guilt or innocence of the respondents herein," the Ombudsman said.

The dismissal was approved by former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto before he stepped down. It was released on Aug. 5, the first day in office of acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio.

But lawyer Rachel Pastores of the Public

DISMISSAL/ p. A25





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4	ALL ABOUT A BOY

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1	MEGIDDO
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3	PAKI SABI NA LANG

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1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	GALING MO BABES
3	WINDTALKERS
4	PAKI SABI NA LANG

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1 (DOLBY EX)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	PAKI SABI NA LANG
3 (DTS)	SORORITY BOYS
4	URAGON

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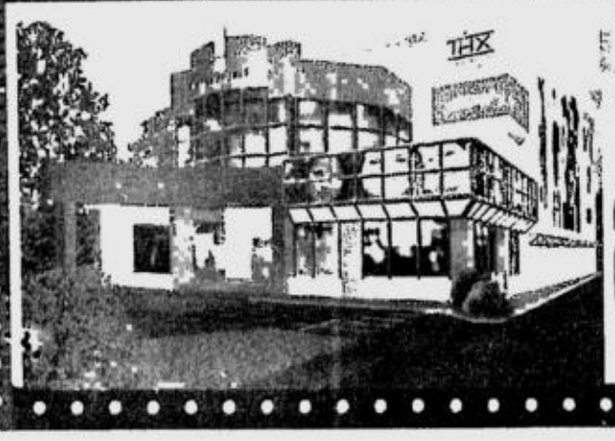

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2	ANG GALING-GALING...
3	WINDTALKERS
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	8 LEGGED FREAKS
6	D' URAGONS
7	SAGAD
8	ABOUT A BIY

SM CENTERPOINT
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1	WINDTALKERS
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	D' URAGONS
6	SAGAD
7	STUART LITTLE 2
8	SORORITY BOYS
9	ANG GALING-GALING...
10	PAKISABI NA LANG...

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	ABOUT A BOY
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG...
4	WINDTALKERS
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	D' URAGONS
7	8 LEGGED FREAKS
8	ANG GALING-GALING...
9	SORORITY BOYS
10	SAGAD
11	MEN IN BLACK 2
12	MEGIDDO

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	8 LEGGED FREAKS
3	MEGIDDO
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	WINDTALKERS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	SAGAD
9	D' URAGONS
10	MEN IN BLACK 2
11	PAKISABI NA LANG...
12	ANG GALING-GALING...

SM MEGAMALL
8331901 • 6329401

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG..
4	MEGIDDO
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	KILLING ME SOFTLY
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	8 LEGGED FREAKS
9	D' URAGONS
10	WINDTALKERS
11	ANG GALING-GALING...
12	SAGAD

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	MEGIDDO
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	ANG GALING-GALING..
4	D' URAGONS
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	KILLING ME SOFTLY
7	8 LEGGED FREAKS
8	WINDTALKERS

SM SOUTHMALL
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1	KILLING ME SOFTLY
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	PAKISABI NA LANG...
7	D' URAGONS
8	WINDTALKERS
9	ANG GALING-GALING...
10	SAGAD

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	ILLUSIONE ENCORE
2	WINDTALKERS
3	SORORITY BOYS
4	DOG SOLDIERS
5	D' URAGONS
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	ANG GALING-GALING...
8	8 LEGGED FREAKS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
2	CLOSED
3	D' URAGONS
4	8 LEGGED FREAKS
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	BIG FAT LIAR
7	CLOSED
8	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	ANG GALING-GALING...
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	D' URAGONS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	WINDTALKERS
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	D' URAGONS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
2	ABOUT A BOY
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	D' URAGONS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	WINDTALKERS
4	D' URAGONS
5	DOG SOLDIERS
6	MEGIDDO

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3	
4	

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2	
3	
4	

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9:20, 11:00 LFS, 11:30 LMF, 1:10 End

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10:00 FS, 10:10 MF, 12:20, 2:35, 4:50 7:05,
9:20, 11:00 LFS, 11:30 LMF, 1:10 END

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5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	WINDTALKERS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	URAGONS
9	GALING MO BABES
10	STUART LITTLE 2

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	WINDTALKERS
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	URAGONS
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	GALING MO BABES
6	ABOUT A BOY
7	KILLING ME SOFTLY

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1	SORORITY BOYS
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	ABOUT A BOY
4	URAGONS
5	WINDTALKERS
6	GALING MO BABES
7	
8	

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6	GALING MO BABES
7	URAGONS
8	

Imus
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1	WINDTALKERS
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	GALING MO BABES
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	URAGONS

Bacolod
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1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	PAKI SABI NA LANG
4	WINDTALKERS
5	WALK TO REMEMBER
6	BIG FAT LIAR

Iloilo
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2	SORORITY BOYS
3	BIG FAT LIAR
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	URAGONS
6	ALL ABOUT BENJAMINS

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6	WINDTALKERS

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DEMOLITION WATCH
Armed residents watch from rooftops as a demolition team tear down their houses at the corner of Morga and Juan Nolasco streets in Tondo. On the ground, women and children cry as they watch their homes disappear.
ERIK ARAZAS

Vendor shoots fellow vendor in Quezon City ice cream factory

BLOOD mixed with ice cream early Friday morning in Quezon City after an ice cream vendor shot a fellow ice cream vendor in the face.

Alvin Maquiling, 22, of Barangay Sto. Cristo, died on the spot, his jaw shattered by a bullet, police said.

Policemen were still looking for suspect Remegio Tano, 40, of Barangay Bagong Pagasa, who escaped after the shooting.

Police said the shooting happened at about 8:45 a.m. Friday in the ice cream factory of Paul Lebades. Maquiling was making the ice cream that he was to sell that day when Tano shot him with a homemade shotgun, witnesses told police.

It was learned that the two men had been feuding for a long time. Tano reportedly had been jealous of Maquiling's closeness to the factory owner. ***Alcuin Papa***

MMDA to deploy barges to clean up waterways

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE METRO Manila Development Authority is set to deploy garbage barges in waterways in order to rid them of the trash that aggravates the flood situation in the metropolis.

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said in a recent interview that the agency has no other recourse but to pick up the garbage that accumulates in *esteros* and rivers because it is blocking the flow of water as well as causing the water level to rise.

"The barges will navigate the polluted waterways and we will set pick-up points where the garbage can be unloaded onto a bigger container," Lacuna said.

The barges would function just like garbage trucks, only the barges would be operating on water, he added.

The responsibility for the rehabilitation of the Pasig River and the flood control problem was recently transferred to the MMDA shortly after former Marikina City mayor Bayani Fernando took over as MMDA chair.

The deployment of barges would begin in a month or so, Lacuna said.

On Monday, Fernando said the MMDA also started removing trash in several pumping stations in Metro Manila.

Aside from picking up the trash, the MMDA will also be assessing the water in the Pasig River, according to Lacuna.

"We will be checking the quality of the water," he said.

The relocation of informal settlers who live along the river bank would also continue, he said.

"That is ongoing," he said. "At this stage we really need to relocate the settlers."

Lacuna added that relocation sites are ready and that the MDDA is already informing people that they have to move.

The MMDA's relocation of informal settlers has received flak from urban poor groups, but Fernando said relocation operations would still continue. He had said the safety of residents who live near waterways is put on the line whenever flooding occurs.

Their garbage has also been polluting esteros and rivers, he said.

Korina sued . . .

From p. A23

Olarte is one of the lawyers and the assistant secretary general of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA). He is also a professor of law and of medicine in two Metro Manila universities.

In his complaint, Olarte asked that Sanchez pay him P1.5 million in moral and other damages.

He based his complaint on a live interview he gave last July 23 on Sanchez's Korina sa Umaga" program on AM radio station dzMM, in which they discussed the medical malpractice bill pending in Congress.

"Olarte said he had been "courteous" to Sanchez but she "kept on lambasting and degrading my person in that interview."

He said Sanchez had made him wait for 10 to 15 minutes on his cellular phone before she finally put him on the air and asked him why doctors were opposed to the passing of the medical malpractice bill. I then greeted her courteously by saying good morning to her and to all her radio listeners and supporters," Olarte said.

He said he had then explained the stand of the PMA, pointing out that the bill was a form of legislation which singled out doctors (as if they are) the only professionals who may commit malpractices."

"He had said that the bill was unconstitutional and if it was passed, "then there is no reason why we should not enact a media malpractice law, a lawyer's malpractice law or an engineer's malpractice law."

He said this apparently irked Sanchez, who allegedly reacted: *Pinapainit nito ang ulo ko at namimilosopo pa.*"

"He said Sanchez lectured him on the alleged malpractices committed by doctors and "enumerated unverified, self-serving fabrications... with the malicious intention to besmirch the reputation of the medical profession."

Olarte maintained that he just listened with courtesy as (Sanchez) dominated the air..., even if (it was she who) called me for an interview."

"He said he had tried to ask Sanchez to allow him to explain the doctor's side, but she allegedly remarked that he was "*bastos,* butt in *nang* butt in, *arrogante.*"

"He said Sanchez kept on calling him names until she finally banged the telephone even while Olarte was still talking and trying to explain. I was aghast at how she could, with audacity, lambast me, her guest in her radio program,the doctor-lawyer said. I was not paid for this interview, and she took advantage of my time to increase her radio rating

``He maintained that his reaction was "normal and within the context of a spirited discussion."

``He said that the following day, Sanchez replayed the interview and again called him "arrogant and *bastos*."

"He said it was repeated for the third time on July 25, when Sanchez compared him to Education Secretary Raul Roco, with whom the broadcaster had had a similar exchange on the air.

Olarte said Sanchez also likened Olarte to a government official who went to church every Sunday and yet stole from the coffers of government."

"She said that on Aug. 1, she again called him "*abusado, mayabang* and *arogante.*"

But Sanchez's lawyer Panelo said Olarte monopolized the conversation and did not even allow Korina to make a reaction to what he was saying."

"Panelo said Sanchez had even asked if she could say something in response to Olarte's statements on the air.

""But he continued his rudeness," Panelo said.

He said that after the radio interview, dzMM was swamped with calls from listeners whose unanimous opinion was that Olarte was arrogant on the air.

"The damage suit is a desperate attempt by Olarte to salvage a tarnished reputation he created for himself," Panelo said. "He shamed himself by doing what he did to Korina."

He said that the day after the interview, Sanchez aired the interview again.

"She asked the listeners who was the really arrogant one and she got another barrage of calls from listeners who sided with her," Panelo said. "No listener made any favorable statements for (Olarte)."

He said all the phone calls were taped and are ready to be presented as evidence in court.

Dismissal of Payatas . . .

From p. A23

Interest Law Center, the legal counsel for the complainants, maintained that the civil case and the criminal case are not exactly the same.

"The civil case was filed against the Quezon City government, the MMDA and the three corporations involved in the dumping of garbage in Payatas," Pastores pointed out. "On the other hand, the criminal case was filed against the personal capacities of Mathay, Binay and Pecson."

The survivors and relatives of those who were killed in the landslide said they were starting to lose confidence in the justice system.

Badion said her group plans to bring the fight for justice to the streets.

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Man killed in Intramuros 'drug war'

A 32-YEAR-OLD man was killed in historic Intramuros on Thursday night allegedly due to illegal drugs, police said.

On Sunday, a friend of the victim was also killed, allegedly by the same killers, police said.

Thursday, an unidentified man shot Alcader S. Canda, 32, of Intramuros, said Detective Alfredo C. Salazar, of the Western Police District homicide section.

Salazar said the shooting happened at 8:05 p.m. on Legaspi Street. Canda was walking when a man on a bicycle shot him, the detective said.

Canda was declared on arrival at the nearby Seaman's Hospital.

Salazar said witnesses refused to give information.

But one witness told the investigator that Canda's killing might have had something to do with the killing of Canda's friend, identified only as Rocky, on Sunday, also in Intramuros.

The witness said a certain Danny Panaguyan shot Rocky in a turf war between drug pushers. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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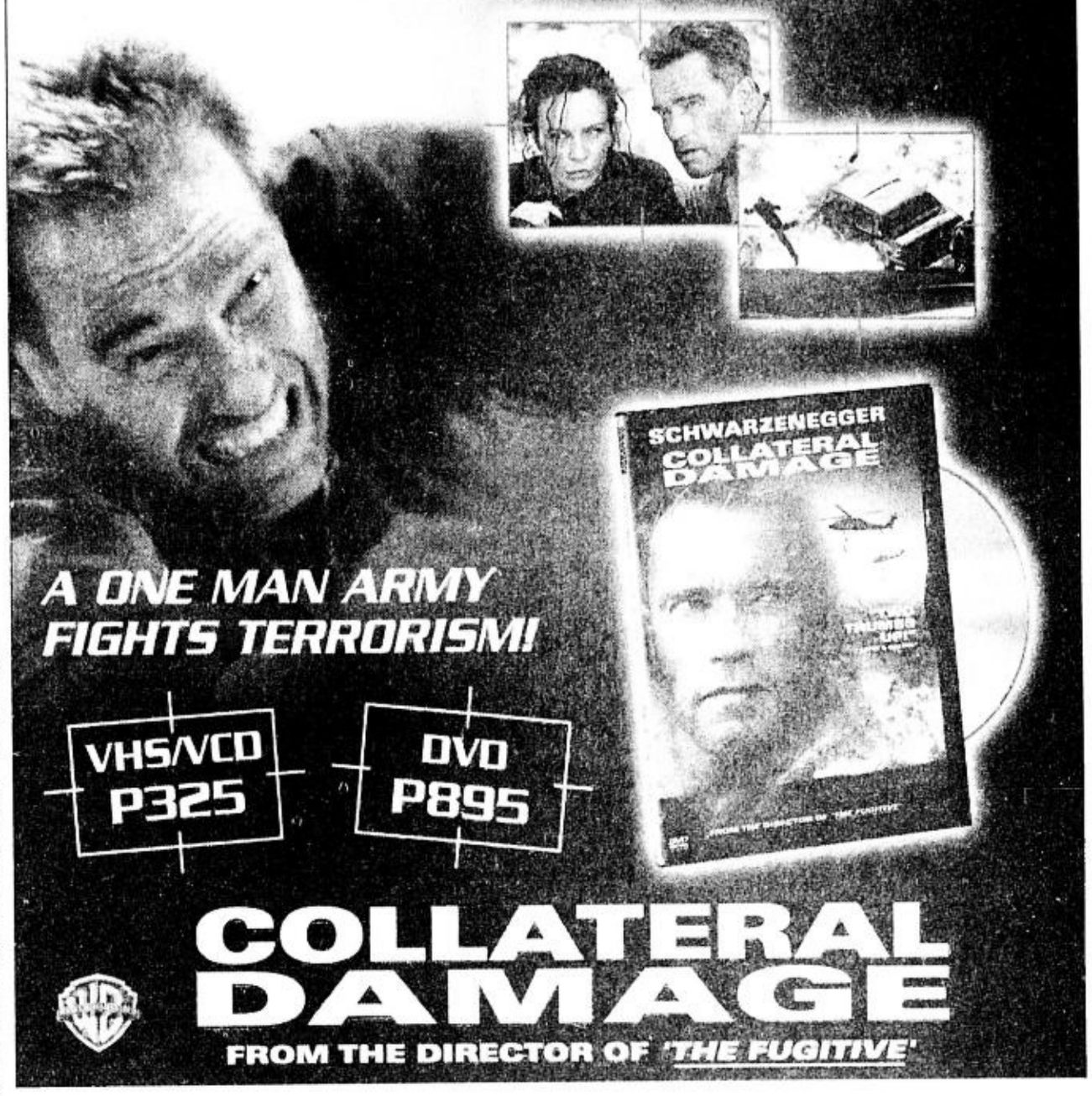

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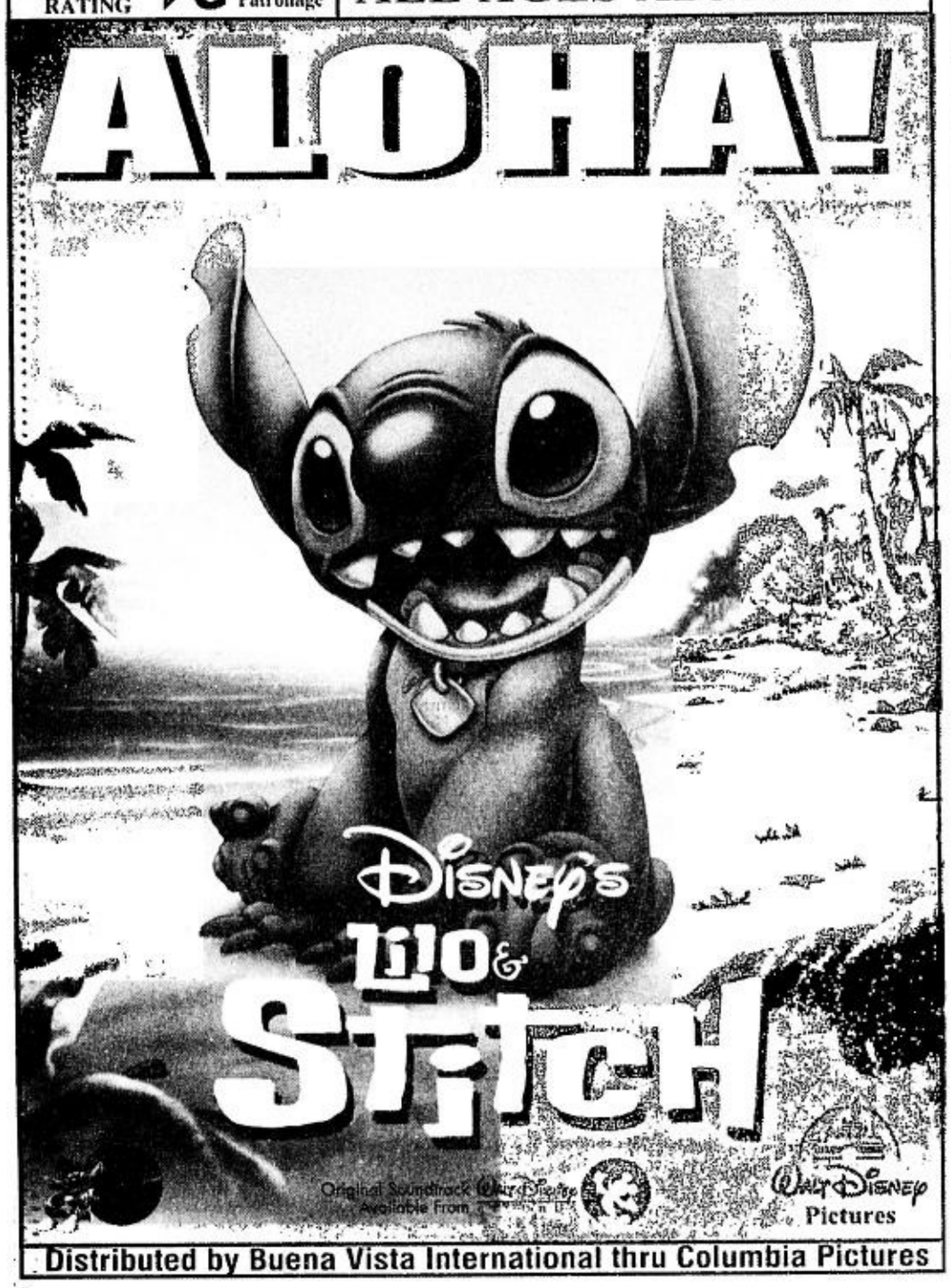

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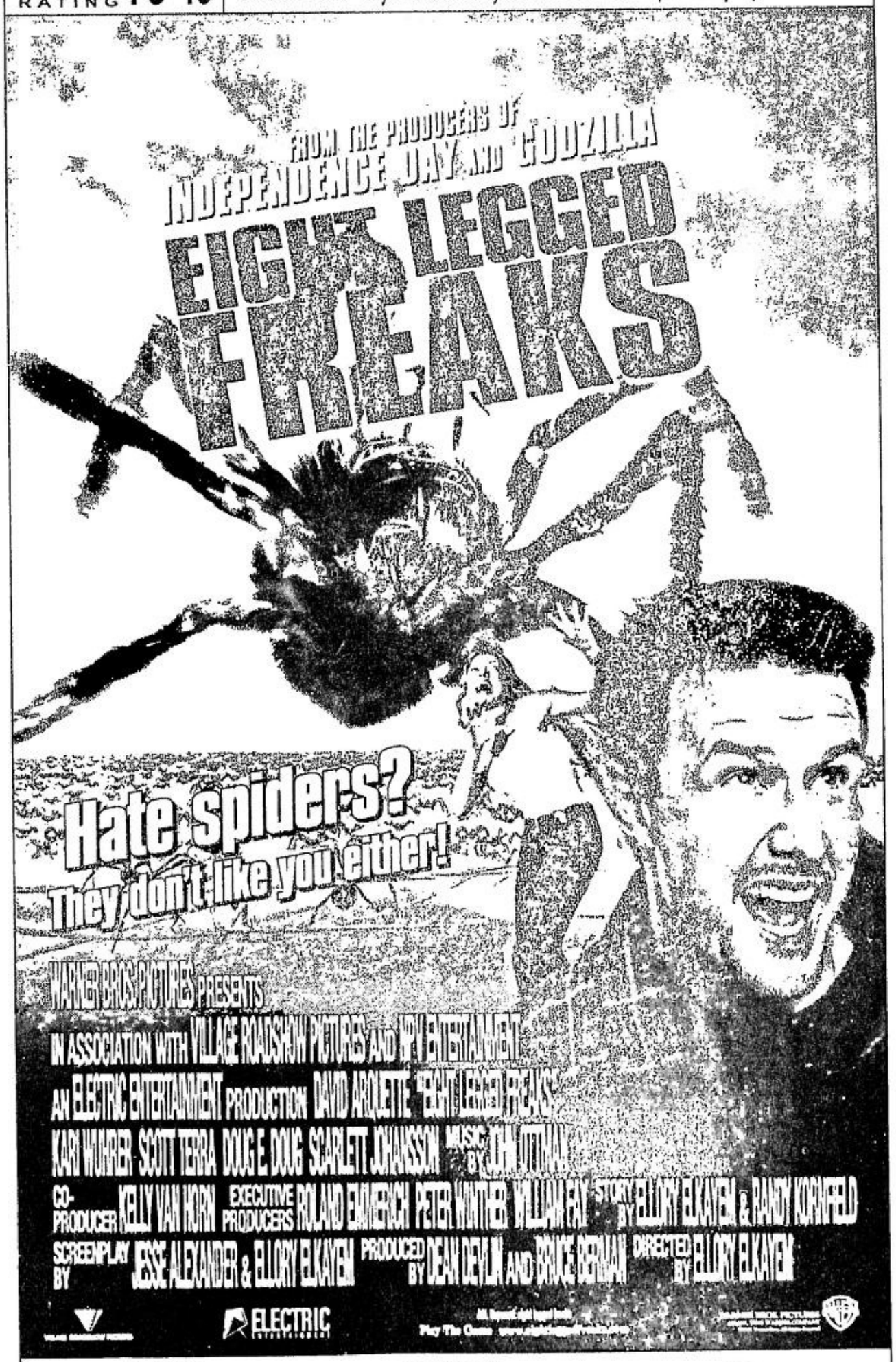

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FROM THE MAKERS OF 'BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY' AND THE PRODUCERS OF 'MEET THE PARENTS'

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"THE COMEDY OF THE YEAR. HILARIOUS." JUSTIN KINGS - CAPITAL FM
"BRILLIANT...ROARINGLY FUNNY." MARK ECCLESTON - GLAMOUR
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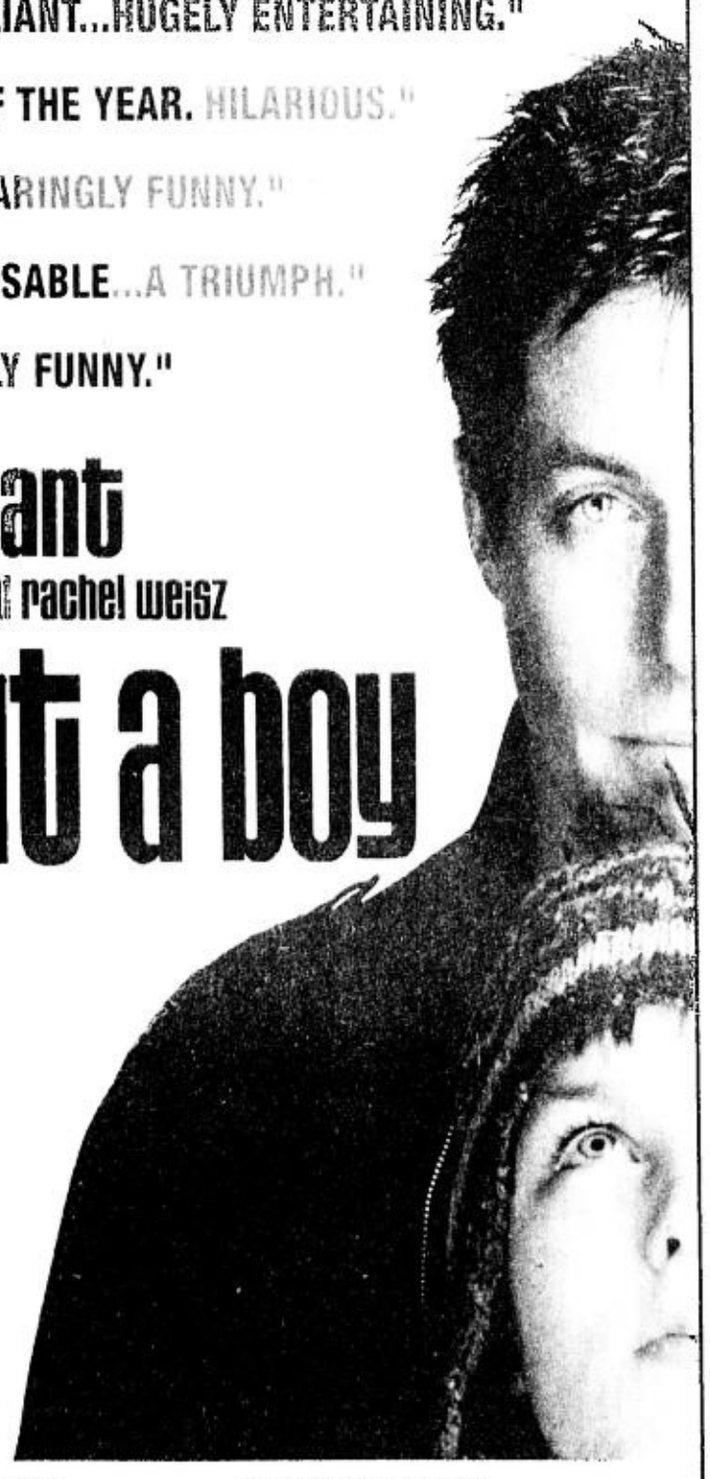

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GMA's unpresidential act

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo should stop the practice of presenting to the media captured crime suspects because it's unpresidential.

The citizenry knows she's a hands-on leader and appreciates what she's doing.

But GMA should know when to get behind the steering wheel and when to just direct the driver from the backseat.

***

GMA's predecessors never presented crime suspects before reporters. They left that job to the police commanders.

The previous presidents, except Erap, found it beneath their dignity to come face to face with the lowlife.

She should not imitate Erap because he was in a class by himself. As they say, "low class si Erap." You, Madame President, are way above your predecessor in class and upbringing.

***

GMA should concentrate in giving more social services to the citizenry, like bringing down the prices of food and medicines.

She's in the right direction trying to make basic food items like rice available to the masses through her rolling stores.

Many people, especially in the provinces, are praising her for her effort to bring down the prices of basic medicines. She has allowed the importation of cheap but quality medicines from India so these can be made available to poor patients.

***

The government is succeeding in lowering the prices of medicines through the parallel importation of inexpensive but effective drugs.

This will force local and multinational pharmaceutical companies to bring down the prices of their products in order to become competitive.

Competition given to local drug companies by imported drugs will redound to the benefit of the masses.

***

At last, the rapist-congressman, Romeo Jalosjos, has been kicked out of the House of Representatives!

Why it took his colleagues so long to decide to drop Jalosjos' name from the House roster is baffling to many. Is it because it was very difficult to get rid of one of the boys in an Old Boys Club?

Anyway, good riddance, Mr. Pedophile Rapist!

***

Jalosjos' incarceration proves once more the workings of karma, the universal law of reward and punishment.

People who know Jalosjos say he is a pedophile who had raped many young girls before he met his comeuppance in the person of an 11-year-old girl.

Although he paid for the girl's services, he committed rape. Why? Because under the law, rape is committed when one has sexual relations with a girl under 12 years old even with the girl's consent. It's called statutory rape.

***

Jalosjos was fond of girls in their pre-teen years. He was seen with girls so young they should have been playing with their dolls rather than with old men.

It didn't matter whether those girls were sold to Jalosjos by their poor parents. Jalosjos took advantage of their poverty.

When he was still living in with the late actress Nida Blanca, Jalosjos raped a very young but homely maid. His relations with the domestic help bore him a child. He and Nida separated because she found out about the relationship.

***

Persons who have evaded punishment from earthly justice will never escape karmic justice. It will come. As sure as day follows night.

That is the way of karma.

Karmic justice overtook Jalosjos when he least expected it. He committed rape with impunity when he was still not so powerful. Why should he be punished at a time when he was already a powerful figure?

***

As a rule of thumb, judges and justices should set aside their religious prejudices when considering cases before them.

A lawyers' group locked in a court dispute with the Seventh Day Adventist Church fears it did not have a fair hearing from Supreme Court Justice Santiago Kapunan.

A bond allegedly exists between him and the Adventists, his sister Leona Kapunan Tiangco being a member of the church. So is his grandniece, Kristine B. Tiangco, who also happens to be one of the Adventists' lawyers. So is the clerk of court in Kapunan's division, Virginia Ancheta Soriano.

So, how could Kapunan be expected to be objective? the lawyers ask.

In short, the lawyers' group lost the case.

***

I'd like to thank Manila Mayor Lito Atienza for paying for the funeral expenses of my *kababayan*, Shirley Tibug, who died during a jeepney holdup in Taytay, Rizal.

A funeral parlor in Sta. Cruz, Manila, was demanding P35,000 from the victim's family for taking care of the remains. The family is too poor to pay and asked my help.

I called Mayor Atienza to ask the funeral parlor to bring down the funeral's service fee. Instead, the mayor paid all the expenses.

Don't hike toll, just restructure loan, protesters tell PNCC Skyway

By Christian V. Esguerra

TO AVOID increasing toll rates, the PNCC Skyway Corp. should restructure its multimillion-peso loan for the construction of the Skyway system, protesters proposed yesterday.

A restructured loan package will decrease the 10-percent annual interest rate to 5 percent payable in 10 years, instead of five years, said Ray Junia, convenor of the Transportasyon at Mamamayan Laban sa Toll.

Ramon Borromeo, spokesperson of the Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., had earlier explained that the company had to jack up fees to pay the expenses it incurred from building the Skyway in 1995.

But Junia claimed the PNCC Skyway, which operates the road system, should not have been granted a provisional increase in December because it was allegedly making a profit based on its old rates.

In January, the company implemented the provisional increase that jacked up toll rates by 100 percent.

Borromeo said the CMMTC is losing around P6 million daily since the rate of increase should have been 300 percent.

Suspend Malabon mayor, DILG urged

By Tina Santos

THE DEFERMENT of the Sandiganbayan order suspending Malabon City Mayor Amado Vicencio has only given the mayor the opportunity to use his office to influence witnesses, according to opposition councilor Edilberto Torres.

In a two-page letter, Torres urged interior and local governments secretary Joey Lina to immediately carry out the 90-day suspension order imposed on Vicencio and four other respondents: Pio Dadula, Maria Lida Sarmiento, councilor Lauro Borja and city treasurer Ernesto Pabustan.

The five city officials are members of the local Prequalifications, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), with the mayor as its chair.

The DILG reportedly refused to implement the July 4 preventive suspension order because of the pending motion for reconsideration filed by Vicencio's lawyers.

"With due respect to the honorable secretary ... the order of the Sandiganbayan should have been implemented, notwithstanding the motion for reconsideration filed by the respondents," Torres said.

"Preventive suspension is not a penalty but a safeguard measure pending litigation ... to prevent the accused from using his office and power to influence, harass and intimidate the complainants and witnesses."

In his motion for reconsideration, Vicencio said he and his co-respondents should not be suspended because the evidence presented by the prosecution against them is not based on law.

Japanese pair robbed in Harrison Plaza

JAPANESE businessmen Shinji Fujiwara and Masashi Hamazaki lost over P360,000 to a gang of thieves at the Harrison Plaza mall early this week.

Fujiwara, 37, currently staying at the Sandico Apartelle in Ermita, Manila lost a $300 bag which contained a $230 MP3 player, a $1,300 camera, two credit cards, computer accessories worth $400, a $2,000 computer, a $1,500 camera, and two videotapes, totaling about P286,500, said PO2 Rommel Lim, of the Western Police District.

On Tuesday, Hamazaki, 39, lost a total of P76,588 worth of valuables while he and his family were dining at the Chowking restaurant inside the mall.

Hamazaki, of 404 Copacabana Hotel, Edsa, Pasay City, also lost his bag which contained four passports, driver's license, P25,000 and Y50,000 in cash, a Y50,000 Canon digital camera, and a Y20,000 Kikuchi pair of eyeglasses, said PO2 Rommel Anicete of the WPD. *Philip Tubeza*

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WINDTALKERS P13 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	STUART LITTLE 2 GP 11:30, 1:20, 3:10, 5:00, ABOUT A BOY P13 6:50, 9:00	KILLING ME SOFTLY R18 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

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CINEMA 1: WINDTALKERS 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50, P13
CINEMA 2: ABOUT A BOY 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00, P13
All Reserved Seating: P120.00
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MUSIC MUSEUM
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AUGUST 30 & 31, 2002 SOUTH BORDER w/ KYLA 9:00 PM
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Anne Ramsay
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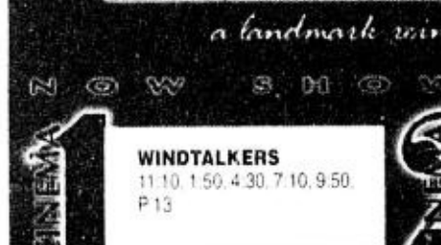
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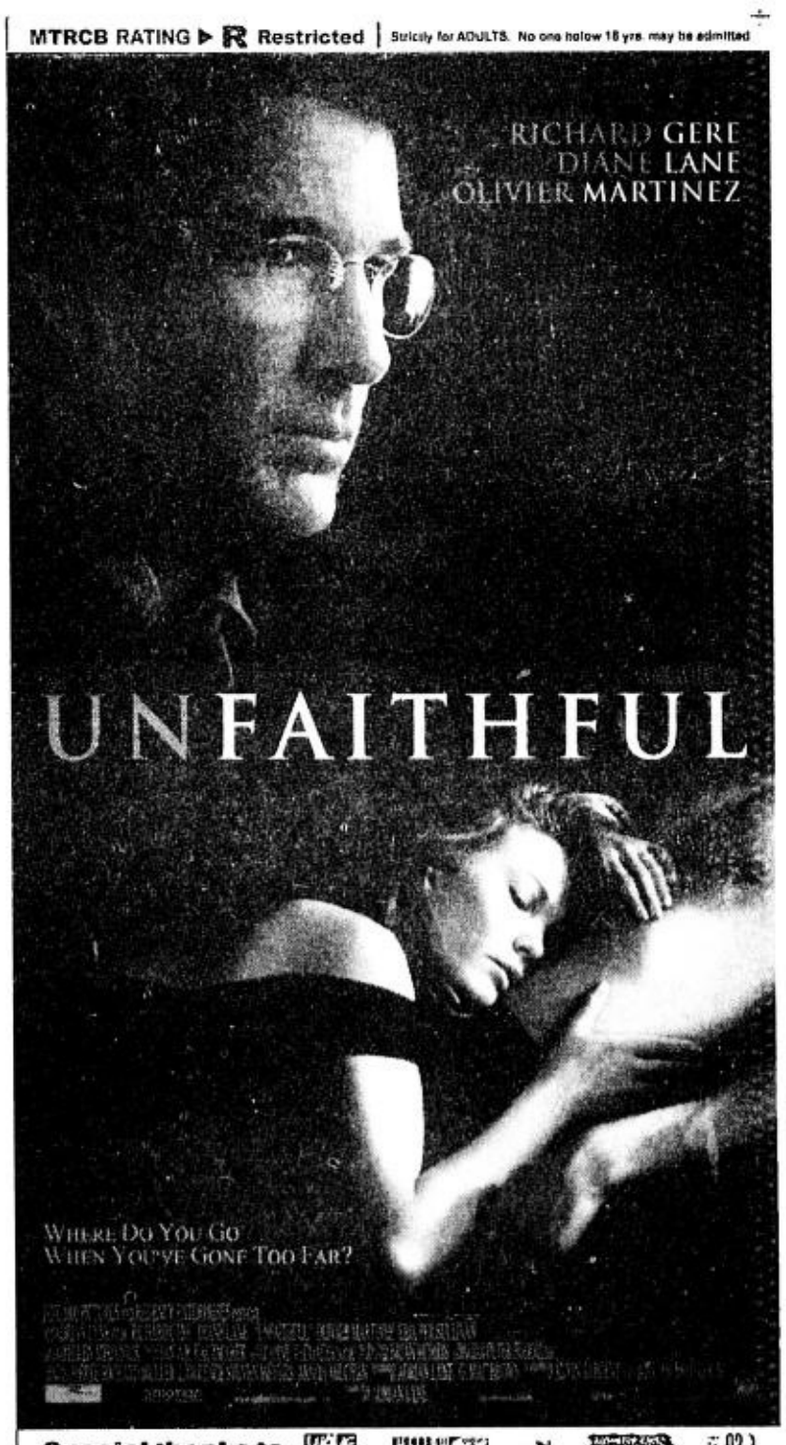

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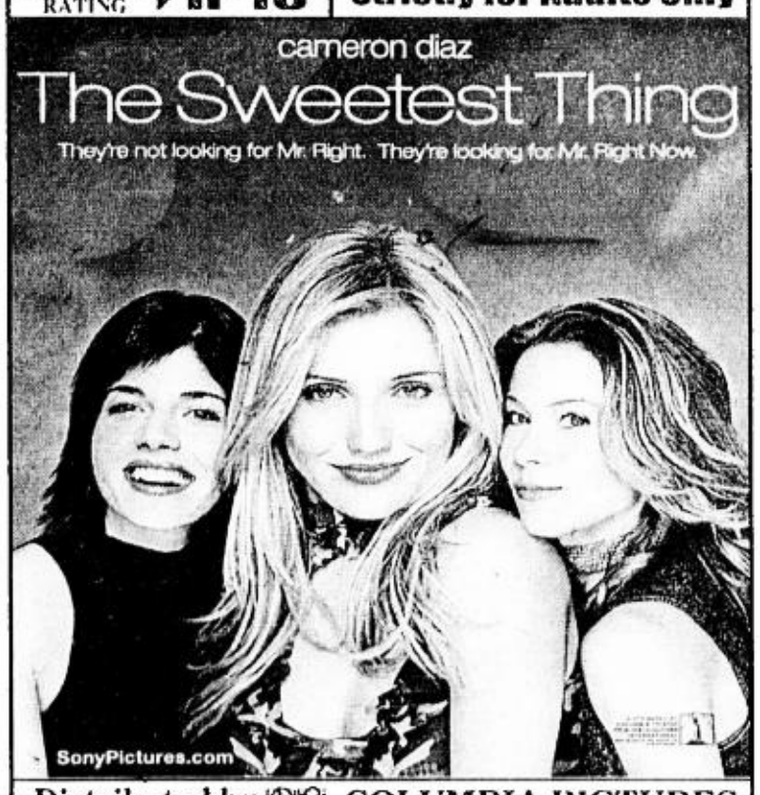

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2nd 'BIG ADVENTURE' WEEK!
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

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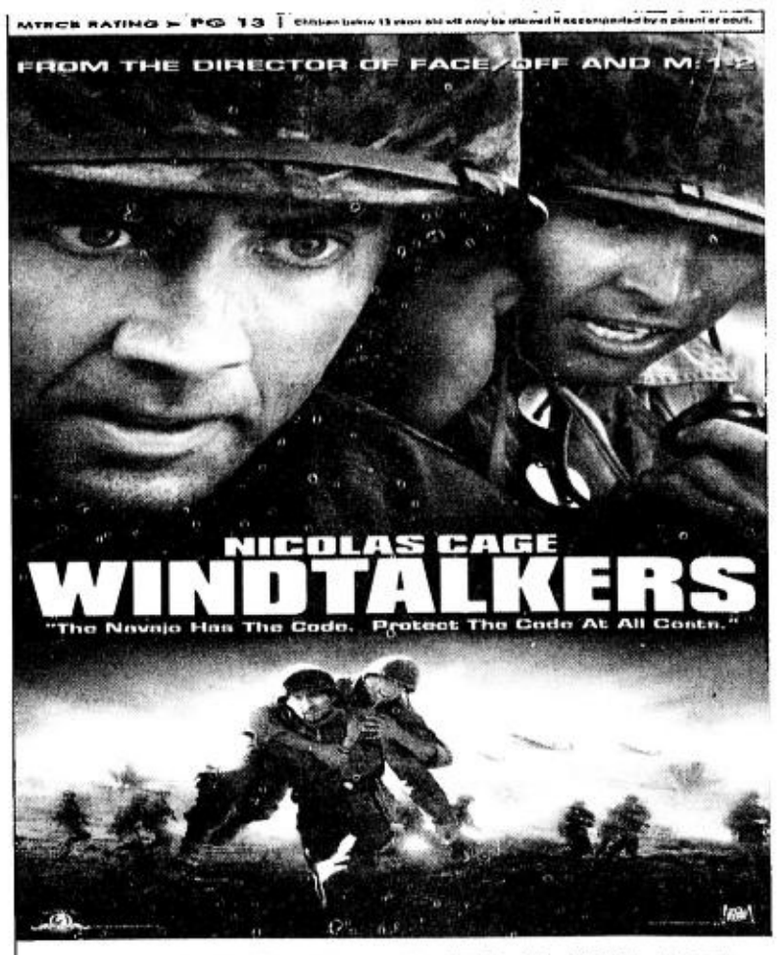
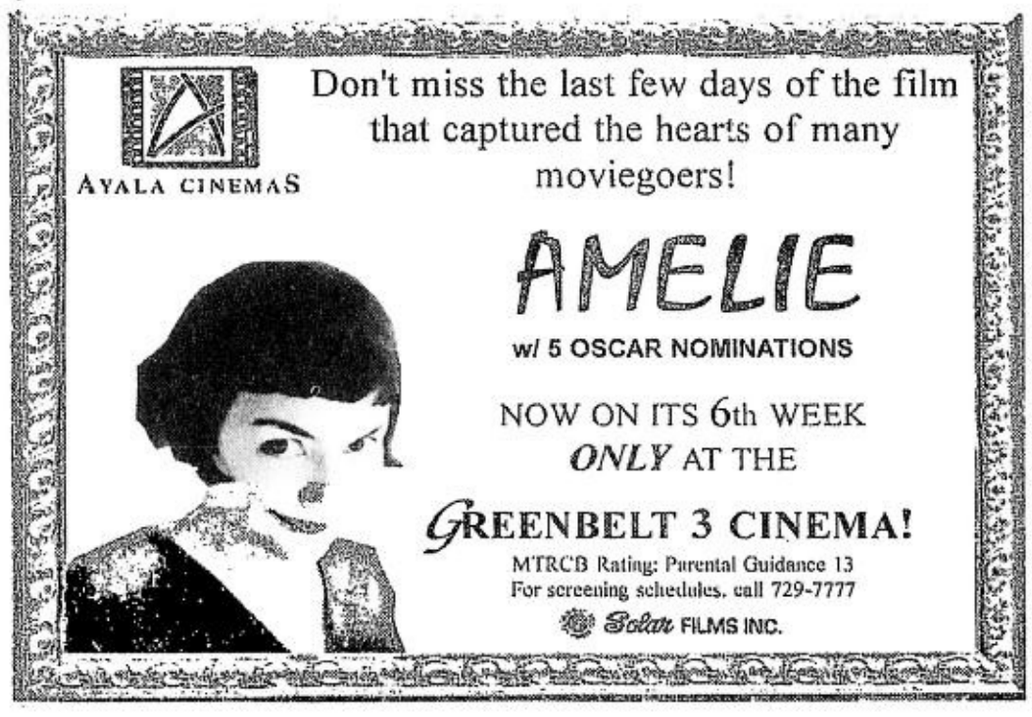
Women's tea party

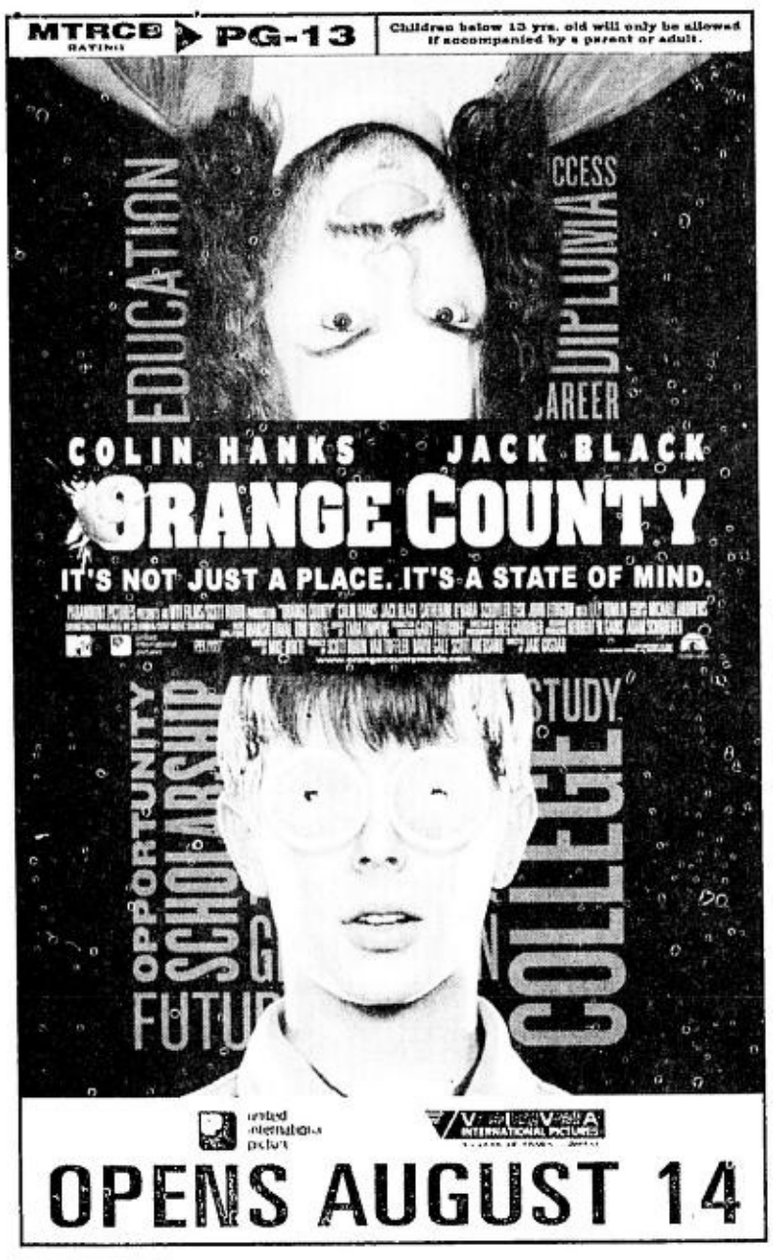
AMBASSADOR Henrietta T. de Vila will keynote the 90th anniversary celebration of the Manila Women's Club in a tea party on Monday, Aug. 12, 2-5 p.m., at the Champagne Salon of Manila Hotel. The theme of the affair is "The Filipino Family of Today."

The program will also include an informal conversation about the clubwoman of the past and the Filipina woman of today, to be shared by Minerva G.. Laudico and Helena Z.. Benitez.

Musical numbers will be rendered by soprano Aurora Antonio and pianist Sonia Valencia.







THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GALING GALING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	D' URAGONS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WINDTALKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ABOUT A BOY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SAGAD
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PAGSAWAAN / 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
ODEON	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
ODEON-2	REPLICANT / HARI NG SELDA
ROBEN	SAGAD
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	JIHAD WARRIOR / NOT ANOTHER THING

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	SAGAD
REMAR	SAGAD
REMAR-2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAK

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	D' URAGONS
B	SAGAD
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-2	WINDTALKERS

CAINTA RIZAL

*STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GALING GALING
CINEMA-2	PAKISABI NA LANG
CINEMA-3	SAGAD
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	D' URAGONS
CINEMA-6	MEGGIDO
CINEMA-7	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-8	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-12	ABOUT A BOY
CINEMA-14	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-15	D' URAGONS

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

POWER PLANT CINEMA

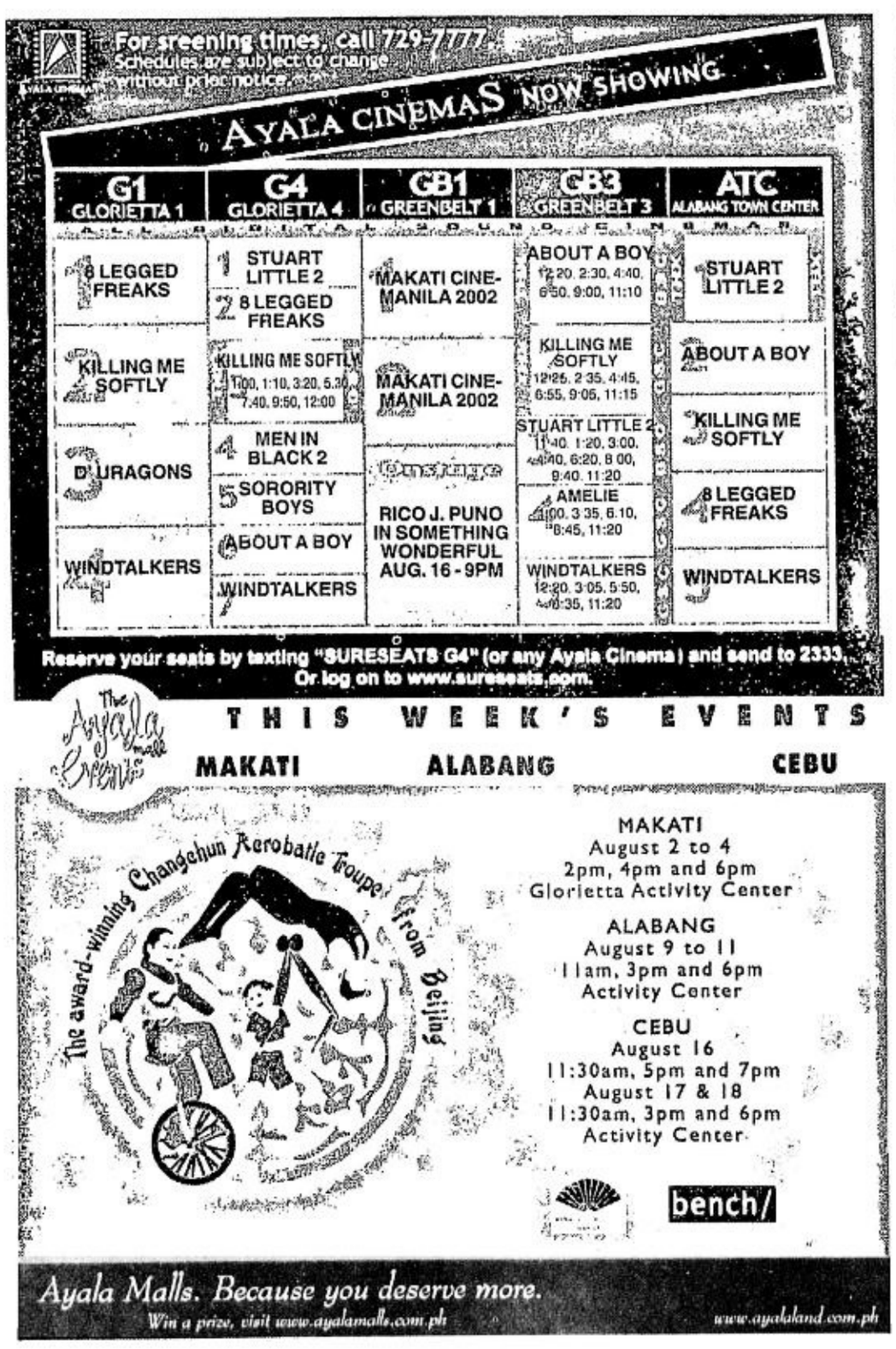
CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK I
CINEMA-6	SELDA

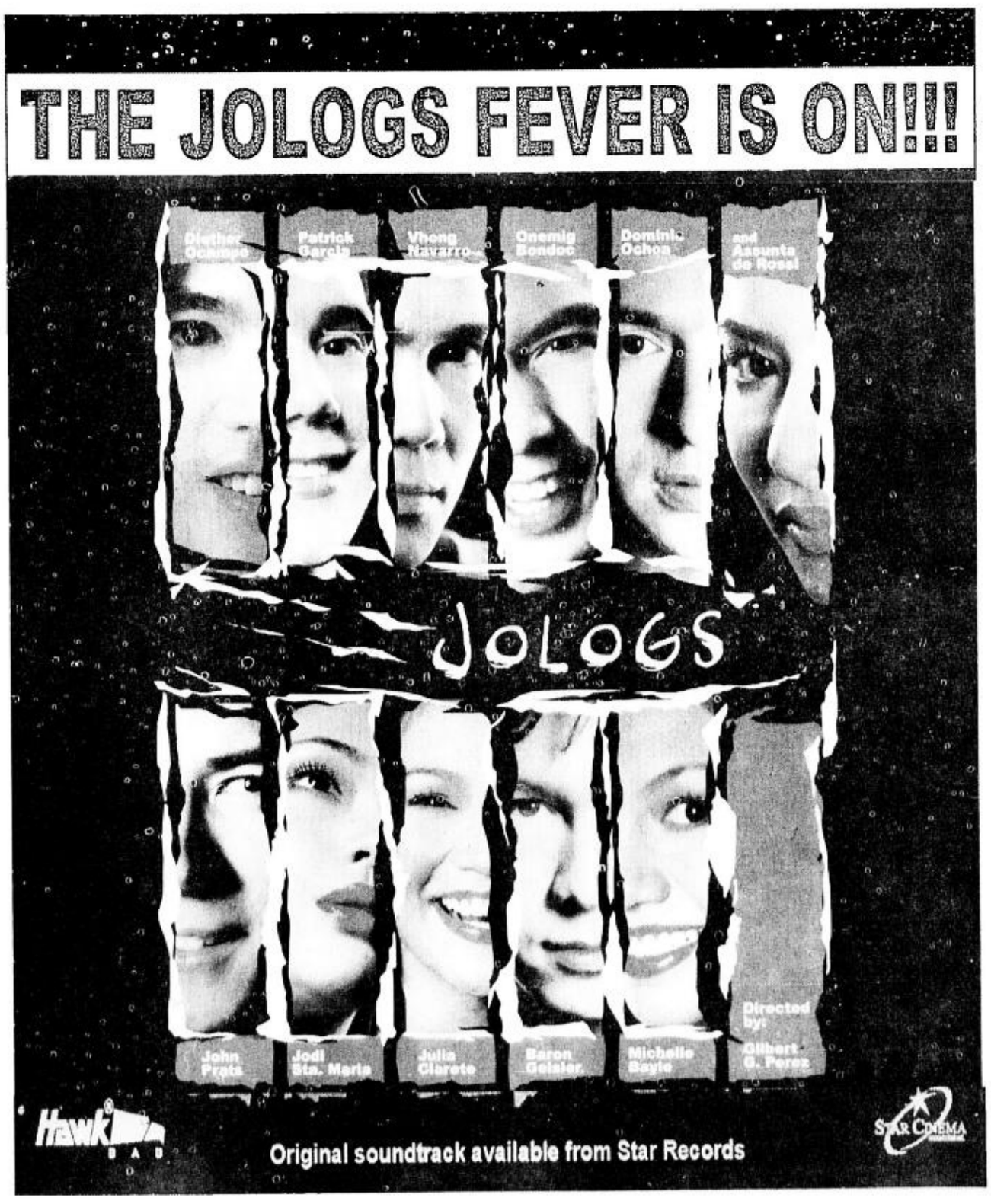
UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA





SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Victim says she's not after money

Leila B. Salaverria

THE WOMAN who filed charges of attempted rape and sexual harassment against Dusit Hotel Nikko general manager Chiyuki Fujimoto said she was not after money.

"That is not true. If I wanted money, I should just have blackmailed him. I shouldn't have filed charges and exposed myself. I also have children," she told the INQUIRER in an interview.

The woman is a physical therapist or a masseur of Clark Hatch Fitness Center, a concessionaire of Dusit. She also admitted that another customer, a Singaporean, had molested her in 1997 when she was working at the Peninsula Hotel, but the foreigner was able to leave the country.

This time, she vowed she would not succumb to pressure. Learning from her experience with the Singaporean, she said she had asked the Bureau of Immigration to issue a hold departure order against Fujimoto so he would not be able to run away.

"They had their chance," she said. "I reported the incident but did not file charges because I was waiting for them to apologize or make amends. But they ignored the incident."

In her complaint, the woman said Fujimoto had tried to rape her in his room on June 25 while she was massaging him. She claimed that the Japanese had grabbed her hands, made her sit on his chest and then ran his hands on her thighs and butt. She tried to get up but Fujimoto would not let her go. She was also afraid that if she ran, Fujimoto might call her office and make up a story about the incident. She said this might endanger her job.

The woman said she continued massaging him, until Fujimoto grabbed his organ, which he called his "chin chin," and asked her to massage it. She said she ignored him, but Fujimoto sat up and said, "I want to put my chin chin in you." He then removed his jogging pants, but he almost fell over since he was drunk, the woman said. She said that she even held out her hands to prevent Fujimoto from hitting his face against the doorframe.

In his counter-affidavit, Fujimoto denied the woman's allegations and described the complainant's story as "mere fabrications, concoction of lies and completely unbelievable."

Fujimoto said the charge is incredulous because if he had really attempted to rape her, then she should have resisted or run away.

"Not a single outcry from her mouth even as she was allegedly being maliciously held... Interestingly, it should be noted that complainant did not even show an attempt to resist if there was, indeed, an attempt to violate her," he said in his affidavit.

The woman said in her complaint that she was "afraid that if I left early, he might use that against me. I just kept my presence of mind. I was telling myself that I could handle this."

Fujimoto also hit the woman's statement for its inaccuracies, and accused her of contradicting herself. He also pointed out that he had never used force or threatened her, acts that would have produced reasonable fear. He said the complainant merely "magnified" his alleged stroking of her lower body as well as his showing of his genitals "into a commission of a felony that was never intended by him."

The Japanese also said that the therapist might have had ulterior motives when she filed the charges against him.

"The allegations ...are nothing but a transparent ploy to malign the respondent or the possibility that the charges were merely motivated by some factors other than the truth to its commission," Fujimoto said in his counter-affidavit.

He also said he could not be charged with sexual harassment because the therapist is not his employee.

He said that under the law, work-related sexual harassment could only be committed by an employer, employee, manager, supervisor or any other person in authority.

The woman said that filing the case had jeopardized her job had placed her in an uneasy situation. She said that some of her superiors have been ignoring her and that she has been receiving malicious text messages.

Pabilis nang pabilis, paaga nang paaga maubos ang LIBRE!

Kuha Na!

Ang Inquirer Libre ay makukuha umpisa 6:00 ng umaga, Lunes hanggang Biyernes, sa mga sumusunod na LRT at MRT stations:

LRT stations: Monumento, 5th Avenue, Abad Santos, Blumentritt, Tayuman, Carledo, Pedro Gil, Gil Puyat, Libertad, Edsa at Baclaran

MRT stations: North Avenue, Quezon Avenue, GMA Kamuning, Cubao, Shaw, Boni, Guadalupe, Magallanes at Taft

LIBRE

The best things in life are Libre

Gang-rape suspects arrested in Payatas

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE arrested a 35-year-old man whose two daughters had accused of molesting them in their home in Quezon City.

Accompanied by their mother, the victims went to the Baler Police Station on Wednesday to file a complaint against their father and have him arrested. The older of the two victims told police that their father had started touching her private parts in August last year every time their mother was out of the house. She said her father had threatened kill her if she told anyone of the abuse. But when she learned that their father was also molesting her younger sister, the victim could no longer keep quiet and told her mother.

Police said they also have in their custody two suspects in the gang rape of two young girls in Payatas, Quezon City. A third suspect is still at large.

One of the suspects was identified as Rene Palatao, 20. The other suspect is a 17-year-old boy. The two were arrested in their hide-out in Payatas, police said.

The victims told police that they were on their way home from church last Sunday at about 5 p.m. when the suspects abducted them and brought them to a nipa hut on Farmers Street in Payatas where they were raped repeatedly for three days.

They were able to escape and reported the rape to police.

Matchstick sparks killing

By Alcuin Papa

A MATCHSTICK sparked the killing of a 20-year-old man yesterday morning in Quezon City.

Police said suspect Erwin Bogna of Ilang-Ilang Street in Payatas, Quezon City hacked to death John Salinas, 20, of Antipolo City.

Salinas was declared dead on arrival at the East Avenue Medical Center. Bogna escaped after the killing.

SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit, said the victim and the suspect were smoking cigarettes at about 3:00 a.m. along Ilang-Ilang Street when they found out that there was only one matchstick left in the matchbox of the victim.

This led to an argument on who would use the last matchstick to light his cigarette.

Police said the Bogna left but reappeared with a bolo and attacked the Salinas. Bogna repeatedly hacked the victim in different parts of the body and escaped.

Gunned down in Quezon City

By Alcuin Papa

THIRTEEN bullets were pumped into the body of Quezon City barangay tanod Nicanor Morallos.

Police said Morallos, of 29 Kapilingan St., Barangay Dona Imelda, Quezon City was shot to death in front of his house at about 1 a.m. yesterday. Investigator PO2 Joseph Dinio of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit said the suspect was in a drinking session before he was gunned down. Morallos went home but came out of his house to buy cigarettes at a nearby store.

Police said the still unidentified suspect appeared and emptied his gun on Morallos. The suspect escaped after the shooting.

Police are still investigating the killing, but said that Morallos could have angered one of the men he was drinking with. Authorities are also looking into a long-standing rift between the victim and one of the residents in the area.

Stabbed dead in Pasay City

By Christian V. Esguerra

USING A pair of scissors, a barber stabbed to death a police officer who has having a haircut in Pasay City yesterday, police said.

SPO3 Peter Ireneo Chua, 35, died from stab wounds in the chest at the Pasay City General Hospital, police said.

Chua was having his hair cut at RBC Marcelo barber shop when vendors in nearby stalls on Libertad Street heard a commotion inside the shop at about 12:30 p.m. yesterday

A female vendor said she saw a barber running out of the shop and shouting that his co-worker Jun had stabbed the police officer.

A bloodied Chua came crawling out of the shop as his assailant ran toward F.B. Harrison Street, the vendor said.

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mula sa MAGGI Broth Cubes at MAGGI Sinigang Mix

CONGRATULATIONS sa mga nakatanggap ng sarap at suwerte sa buhay!

GRAND PRIZE WINNERS OF P 500,000 and Kitchen Showcase
SUKING TINDAHAN WINNERS OF P 100,000

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Ma. Theresa L. Sisno
Cainta, Rizal
suking tindahan:
June & Tess Store

LUZON
Shirly E. Abad
Tabuco, Naga City
suking tindahan:
Abad's Store

VISMIN
Virgilio Abamonga
Cagayan de Oro City
suking tindahan:
Abamonga Store

SECOND PRIZE WINNERS OF P 50,000 and Kitchen Showcase
SUKING TINDAHAN WINNERS OF P 20,000

Lerma T. Rigor
Mandaluyong City
Suking Tindahan: Paulo's Store

Marilou A. Enriquez
Project 8, Quezon City
Suking Tindahan: Moreno's Store

Susan H. Rivera
Kapasigan, Pasig City
Suking Tindahan: Uniwide Warehouse Inc.

Amelita V. Cuntapay
Sitio Militar Proj. 8, Quezon City
Suking Tindahan: Jeannie's Store

Maxima S. Espiritu
Cainta, Rizal
Suking Tindahan: Fantastic Convenience Store

Norma B. Boado
San Fernando City, Pampanga
Suking Tindahan: National Bazaar

Fely Calahan
Baguio City
Suking Tindahan: Sunshine Grocery

Consuelo G. Lagua
East Rizal, Cagayan Valley
Suking Tindahan: Nicolas Store

Melanie Leaño
Balungao, Pangasinan
Suking Tindahan: Elvie Store

Estrella B. Marasigan
Sabang, Naga City
Suking Tindahan: Adel's Store

Aida Polino
Carmen, Cagayan de Oro
Suking Tindahan: Elsie Pacturaran Sari-Sari Store

Editha A. Olanga
Maramag, Bukidnon
Suking Tindahan: El Nino Store

Ferdinand C. Alday
Cagayan de Oro
Suking Tindahan: Gaisano City

Lornalyn G. Jayme
Bacolod City
Suking Tindahan: Consuelo's Supermart

Gino Uy Yongco
Cebu City
Suking Tindahan: Gaisano Main

PRELIMINARY DRAW WINNERS OF P 30,000 & SUKING TINDAHAN WINNERS OF P 10,000

Nerissa Adolfo
Bahay Toro, Quezon City
Suking Tindahan: Rendido's Store

Luminda U. Rimando
Bgy. Baesa, Quezon City
Suking Tindahan: Salvacion Store

Josephine M. Catanyag
Mandaluyong City
Suking Tindahan: Zenaida Sari-Sari Store

Leah Pedragosa
Dilliman, Quezon City
Suking Tindahan: Rose & Val Meat Shop

Jimmy Rada Cabiting
Bgy. Pag-Asa, Quezon City
Suking Tindahan: Nelsie Amigo Nasayao

Rhendon P. Hubalde
Cabuyao, Laguna
Suking Tindahan: N Jay R Store

Josephine D. Del Mundo
Angeles City
Suking Tindahan: Esper Store

Ronan M. Miranda
Olongapo City
Suking Tindahan: Choa's for Everything Supermarket

Kathryn G. Minimo
Olongapo City
Suking Tindahan: Choa's for Everything Supermarket

Christine A. Lo
Sabang, Naga City
Suking Tindahan: Mando's Store

Lydia Yongco
Cebu City
Suking Tindahan: Gaisano Main

Jocelyn F. Yee
Butuan City
Suking Tindahan: Tropical Meatshop

Alexander Yabut
Tacloban City
Suking Tindahan: TJR Grocerette

Ildelito C. Mero
Butuan City
Suking Tindahan: Akon Store

Louie Gee L. Gitgano
Pob. Santander, Cebu
Suking Tindahan: Elvie's Store

WINNERS OF TURBO BROILER AND GAS RANGE & SUKING TINDAHAN WINNERS OF P 5,000

Edzel Sison
Makati City
Suking Tindahan: Raquel's Store

Marites Dantes
Novaliches, Quezon City
Suking Tindahan: Felix & Tess Store

Eloisa Gaces
Sampaloc, Manila
Suking Tindahan: Quimado's Store

Zosimo R. Sapitan
Bgy. Baesa, Quezon City
Suking Tindahan: Mercury Drug - Munoz

Marilou C. Babagay
San Andres Bukid, Manila
Suking Tindahan: Ana's Store

Dina Urbina
Olongapo City
Suking Tindahan: Chavez Store

Rochelle M. Reyes
Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan
Suking Tindahan: Esing Store

Lydia M. Cardenas
San Ildefonso, Bulacan
Suking Tindahan: Jojo's Store

Debbie Jane Bacares
San Felipe, Naga City
Suking Tindahan: Adel's Store

Chimark C. Madriaga
Bagulo City
Suking Tindahan: Pangmi Store

Jacqueline Orilla
Butuan City
Suking Tindahan: Tropical Meatshop

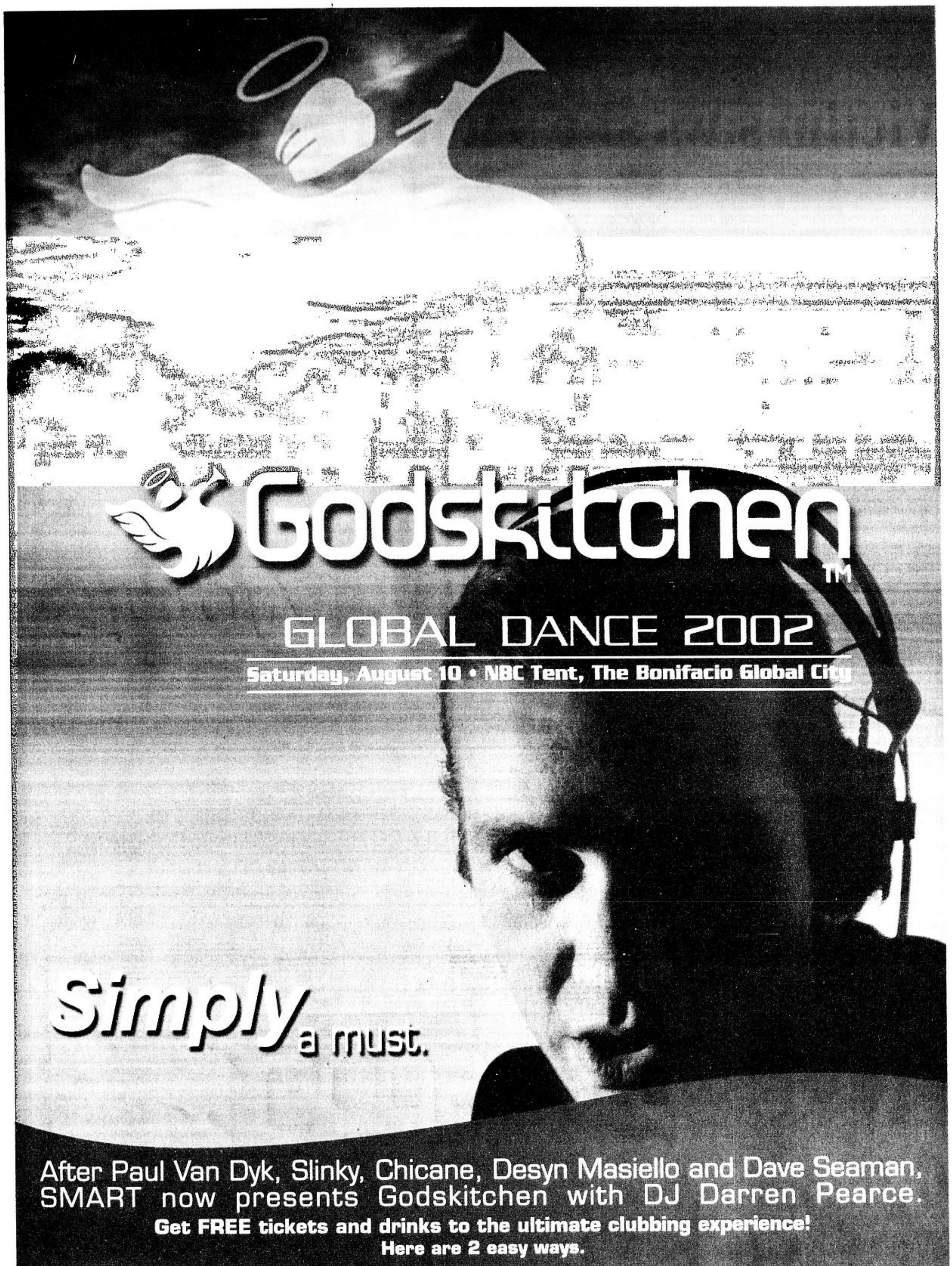
Hida Polino
Cagayan de Oro City
Suking Tindahan: Elsie Pacturaran Sari-Sari Store

Emilia D. Salaya
Pres. Roxas, Capiz
Suking Tindahan: Lounel's Store

Silvina L. Gitgano
Pob. Santander, Cebu
Suking Tindahan: Elvie's Store

Evangeline Rivera
Cotabato City
Suking Tindahan: Cotabato Plastic Trading

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR SUWERTE:
Winners will be notified via registered mail. They may then claim their prize by presenting the registered mail and two valid identification documents (driver's license, company ID, SSS ID, or any ID with picture) at the claiming address specified in the letter.



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Banks to help BIR plug tax loophole

By Clarissa s. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has asked banks to serve as conduits of what is believed to be a fool-proof personal and corporate tax payment system to prevent a repeat of the P230-million tax diversion scam that took place at a branch of the Land Bank of the Philippines.

Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez said the bureau and the Bankers Association of the Philippines were developing a setup wherein tax payments would be debited from a bank account of a taxpayer and would be credited to a dedicated tax payment line.

The system is electronic in nature and would eliminate the issuance of checks that, in turn, makes it susceptible to diversion scams that have victimized a number of individuals, groups and institutions including the BIR and the banks.

Bañez said the new system would be open to small and medium corporations and any other taxpayer that settle their obligations currently through the 22 accredited agent banks of the BIR.

Large taxpayers were already required, starting Aug. 1, to remit their tax payments through the BIR's electronic filing and payment system.

Under the setup being planned by the BIR and the BAP, banks would remit the tax payment to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which would then forward the money to the Bureau of Treasury. The BTr would then credit the payments as part of the collection of the BIR.

Bañez said a memorandum of agreement with the BAP would be forged as soon as the kinks in the system have been ironed out.

BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said the system that the banks were trying to develop would be "taxpayer friendly" and more efficient than the current setup where checks were being issued.

A case in point was the P203-million tax scam uncovered by the BIR and Landbank wherein payments made by seven large taxpayers were diverted into four fictitious accounts in the Binangonan branch. The money was not remitted to the internal revenue agency.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said

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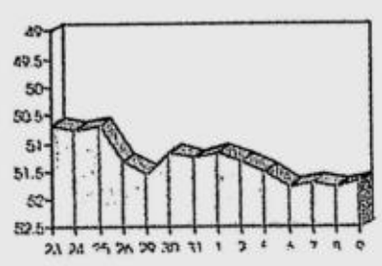


GRAPHS BY SAMMY REINOSO

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 51.67 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 9, 2002

¥ 120.82 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 9, 2002

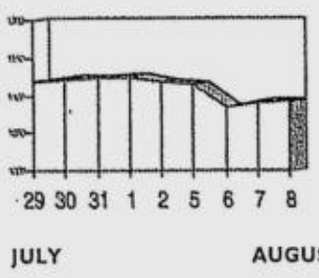
GOLD: $309.20/309.70

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 9, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares end higher

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



SHARES closed slightly higher yesterday, breaching the psychologically important 1100-point level as investors nibbled on bargain issues, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 9.12 points, at 1102.37, adding to Thursday's 0.2-percent gain.

Boosting the main index was interest in select blue chips led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which rose P7.50, or 2.7 percent, at P285 on bargain hunting. Thursday, the stock finished at P277.50, its lowest close since the unification of the country's two bourses in 1993.

Some traders said Wall Street's huge overnight gain might have also provided investors incentive to buy.

AP

(See stock market report on Page B3)

Assemblers buck gov't bid to hike tax ceiling

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ASSEMBLERS are up in arms over the plan of the Department of Finance to further milk the automotive industry by raising the proposed excise tax on vehicle by as much four times the previously set ceiling.

Truck Manufacturers Association president Elizabeth H. Lee said the industry players were caught flat-footed by the DOF's plan to change the proposed tax ceiling on vehicles from 25 percent to 100 percent after months of discussions.

Based on previous discussions, the government had proposed to slap a 3-percent tax on Asian utility vehicles (AUVs), pickups and vans worth below P601,000; 10 percent for models under P1 million; 15 percent for models under P2 million; and 25 percent for vehicles worth more than P2 million.

The new tax schedule proposed by the DOF is 3 percent for vehicle worth below P601,000; 10 percent below P1 million; 25 percent below P1.5 million; 40 percent below P2 million and 100 percent over P2 million.

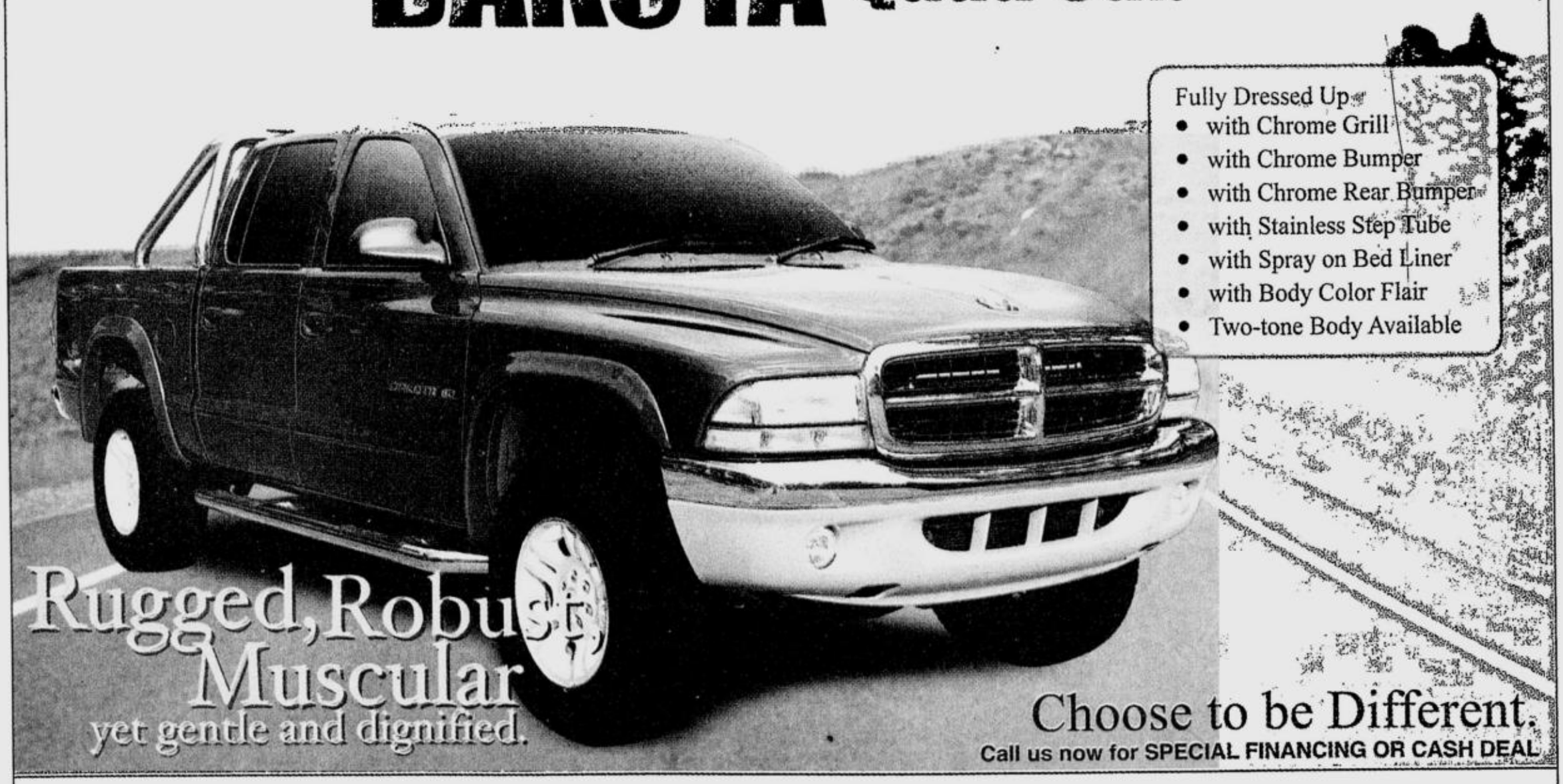
Lee said the DOF revisions in the proposed vehicle tax reform not only put the discussions between industry and the government back to square one, it also showed a marked shift in the government's objective in making amendments from correcting a tax loophole, specifically the 10-seater exemption, to boosting revenues for the government.

Lee said the government's decision to raise the tax ceiling indicated its intent of boosting revenues apparently to bridge the yawning budget deficit. She said the government has apparently forgotten that its past moves to tax the industry further have not resulted to higher tax collections. For example, when the government decided to slap high taxes on 4-wheel-drive vehicles, assemblers merely sold more 4X2 models to avoid the taxes.

Lee said the government should realize that

ASSEMBLERS/ B3

BEHOLD HE COMES
DODGE
DAKOTA Quad Cab



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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang • Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Smog can cause asthma, experts say

By Charles E. Buban

ON A HOT, smoggy day, have you ever wondered if the air was safe to breathe? Should you be concerned about going outside? Recent findings say that you should be. While it's been known that smog can trigger attacks in child asthmatics, it may play a role in causing asthma as well.

According to researchers, breathing smoggy air can be hazardous to one's health. The study, done in Mexico City last year, found that in polluted areas, even children with no symptoms of lung problems showed signs of damage which could lead to lung diseases like asthma.

In a follow-up research, this time in several communities in southern California, youngsters living in high ozone communities and who played three or more sports had developed asthma at a rate three times higher than those living in low ozone communities.

Ozone in smog is an odorless, colorless gas composed of three atoms of oxygen. It occurs both in the Earth's upper atmosphere and at ground level. While the ozone located 16 to 48 kilometers above the Earth is beneficial—they form a protective layer that shields us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays—the one that forms near the ground is not. This type of ozone is formed when pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants and other sources react chemically in the presence of sunlight.

The two studies showed that the presence of low level ozone can aggravate asthma, with more cases being reported in areas where ozone levels are high. One reason behind this is that ozone makes people more sensitive to allergens, which are the most common triggers for asthma attacks (allergens could include dust mites, cockroaches, pet hair, fungus and pollen).

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Allergic asthma

Also, asthmatics are more severely affected by the reduced lung function and irritation that ozone causes in the respiratory system. By lung function, scientists mean the volume of air that you draw in when you take a full breath and the speed at which you are able to exhale it. Ozone can make it more difficult for you to breathe as deeply and as vigorously as you normally would.

So-called allergic asthma accounts for about 60 percent of all asthma cases and is the most understood by medical science. It is triggered by an allergen and when an allergic person is exposed to it, a series of reaction is set off.

It starts with the production of antibodies in the immune system whose purpose is to capture unwanted invaders such as a particular allergen. These antibodies, called "IgE," travel through the bloodstream and lock onto the surface of so-called "mast cells," found mostly in the nose, eyes, lungs and gastrointestinal tract. There they lie silently in wait—until the allergen strikes again.

The IgE antibodies jump on and gobble up the allergens, triggering the release of inflammatory chemicals such as histamine and prostaglandin. As a result, the airways become inflamed, boggy and red. This results in bronchospasm, or the narrowing of the airways. The victim begins to wheeze, cough, or even lose his breath.

Not every case of asthma is triggered by an allergic reaction, however. Exercise, cold outdoor temperature and other factors may be the seminal event in susceptible individuals. While those cases are also characterized by inflammation and narrowing of the airways, the reasons are still not completely understood.

Reduce smog

It is widely acknowledged that air pollution, particularly the level of suspended particles, is a serious problem in Metro Manila. The largest contributors to pollution are fossil fuel combustion in small and medium industrial and commercial installations and construction activities. Although vehicle exhaust is the most noticeable culprit, it only contributes about 12 percent of total suspended particle emissions.

According to the World Health Organization's Healthy Cities Air Management Information System and the World Resources Institute, the country's total suspended particles is at 200 micrograms per cubic meter—way over the annual mean set by the WHO for air quality standards which is 90 mcm.

There are several things we can do to help reduce ozone levels on the ground. Using fewer vehicles is one. Instead of using a car, you may want to walk, use mass transit, ride a bike or arrange for a car pool. At the very least, you should make sure your car is well-tuned.

Also, take care not to spill gasoline when you fill the tank of your car or your lawn or recreation equipment and make sure that you tightly seal the lid of chemical products—such as solvents, garden chemicals or household cleaners—to keep evaporation to a minimum.

Reduced lung function can be a problem for outdoor workers, competitive athletes and people who exercise outdoors. Cutting back on the level or duration of exertion when ozone levels are high will help protect you from ozone's harmful effects. Research has shown that respiratory effects are observed even at lower ozone concentrations if either the level or duration of exertion is increased.

Wise words for living well

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

FOR MORE than a decade now, I have had the pleasure of interacting with students who have a genuine desire to learn, who take responsibility for their actions, and who face life squarely with determination and hope.

However, I have also met students who whine at every little challenge, who cheat their way through exams, and who feel that life owes them every ounce of comfort. Inevitably in the middle of mathematics lectures, I would find myself (with dismay) berating their immature attitudes. Their parents often fare no better. There were countless times when I had parents telling me that they pity their children for studying so much. (Is an hour a day too much? Compare this to the average movie-viewing span, which is twice as long.)

Life is difficult, M. Scott Peck says, and the sooner we acknowledge this and go on living the best we can, the better.

My husband forwarded this e-mail from well-known radio commentator Paul Harvey. Though the specifics are American, I believe that his message is universal. Here are the things he wants his grandchildren to heed:

"We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For my grandchildren, I'd like better.

"I'd really like them to know about hand-me-down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meat loaf sandwiches. I really would.

"I hope you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated. I hope you learn to make your own bed and mow the lawn and wash the car. And I really hope nobody gives you a brand-new car when you are 16. It will be good if at least one time you can see puppies born and your old dog put to sleep.

"I hope you get a black eye for fighting for something you believe in. I hope you have to share a bedroom with your younger brother. And it's all right if you have to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he's scared, I hope you let him.

"When you want to see a movie and your little brother wants to tag along, I hope you'll let him.

"I hope you have to walk uphill to school with your friends and that you live in a town where you can do it safely. On rainy days when you have to catch a ride, I hope you don't ask your driver to drop you two blocks away so you won't be seen riding with someone as uncool as your Mom.

"If you want a slingshot, I hope your Dad teaches you how to make one instead of buying one. I hope you learn to dig in the dirt and read books. When you learn to use computers, I hope you also learn to add and subtract in your head.

"I hope you get teased by your friends when you have your first crush on a girl, and when you talk back to your mother that you learn what Ivory soap tastes like. May you skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on a stove, and stick your tongue on a frozen flagpole.

"I don't care if you try a beer once, but I hope you don't like it. And if a friend offers you dope or a joint, I hope you realize he is not your friend.

"I sure hope you take time to sit on a porch with your Grandpa and go fishing with your Uncle.

"May you feel sorrow at a funeral and joy during the holidays.

"I hope your mother punishes you when you throw a baseball through your neighbor's window and that she hugs you and kisses you at Christmas when you give her a plaster mold of your hand.

"These things I wish for you—tough times and disappointment, hard work and happiness. To me it's the only way to appreciate life."

Paul Harvey ends with a riddle, which he claims was answered correctly by more kindergarteners than college students: What is greater than God, more evil than the devil, the poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat it, you'll die?

I am sure all of us know the answer. Think about it, laugh out loud, and live well.

The importance of cooperation

By Massie K. Santos
Contributor

PICTURE a race with lethal obstacles, with a multitude of contestants. Like all races, the first one to cross the finish line wins. But unlike most other races, there are no runners-up and the losers die. In this situation, one might think that the competitors would be ruthless. However, as scientists announced last month in the journal Nature, the sentiment seems to be more of, "If I can't win, then I'll help make sure someone else I know does."

According to Harry Moore, a researcher at the University of Sheffield in England, the sperm of the wood mouse cluster together (they are connected by hooks on their heads) and run toward the egg in half as fast time as those who choose to go it alone. The sperm on the outermost layer are tackled by the mucus in the tract, but the rest slip past. After half an hour the sperm cluster disbands and each sperm tries to make its way to the egg before the others do.

With this kind of cooperation, each group of sperm tries to make sure that it is the sperm from their male and not from any other which fertilizes the egg.

Moore suggests that human sperm may act similarly—although not necessarily because they have competitors from other males to contend with.

If animal sperm can learn to cooperate, then there may be hope that the crab mentality of humans themselves might soon be a thing of the past. Besides, says Gregory Berns, a psychiatrist at Emory University in Atlanta people are "wired to cooperate with each other."

Prisoner's dilemma

In a study done by researchers at Emory and Princeton, published in July in the journal Neuron, pairs of females who met each other just prior to the experiment faced each other across a table to play a game called "Prisoner's Dilemma." The object of the 20-round game is to have the players decide whether to cooperate or be greedy and selfish in search of financial gain.

If both decide to cooperate—by pressing a button on a computer to indicate

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

their choice—they each receive $2. If one decides to cooperate and the other to be greedy, the former gets $1 and the other get $3.

Theoretically, a player could get greedy at each round and make $60 while the other would only get $20, or they could both walk off with $40 each. When one player decided to get greedy, the other could and would retaliate by making the same choice in the next round. Some women were asked to get greedy at certain rounds to see how the other player would respond while others were asked to play against computers, whether or not they were aware that their opponent was a machine.

Warm, fuzzy feeling

Magnetic resonance images (MRIs) of each player were taken during the game. The results surprised the researchers.

When the players decided to cooperate, two parts of the brain lit up on the MRI, suggesting that people really do get a warm fuzzy feeling from doing good. The orbitofrontal cortex (located above the eyes) and the anteroventral striatum (set above the spinal cord in the middle of the brain) are both laden with neurons that respond to dopamine, also known as the chemical that makes people feel good. When the players cooperated, the do-pamine flowed freely.

Researchers also found that in cases when the women played against the computer and knew it was a machine, the MRI showed a lesser pleasurable response in both areas of the brain. This suggested that the women found pleasure in helping another human being and not at the thought of financial gain.

The MRI results were echoed by the players themselves. They reported feeling good after each round of cooperation.

Although men did not take part in this study, previous studies involving the same game and people of both sexes would suggest that the resulting MRIs would be similar.

Philanthropist Bill Gates

Will news that people can benefit emotionally from cooperation result in more of them giving to worthy causes?

Yes and no, according to developmental biologist Anton Zahavi whose 1997 book, "The Handicap Principle," continues to bring up a variety of interesting explanations for human behavior.

According to Zahavi, who co-authored the book with his wife, Avishag, altruism, or the notion that people do good simply because they want to, doesn't exist. This sentiment would echo the findings of Berns. Rather, Zahavi said, people do good things because it raises their social standing, making them even more attractive and desirable to the opposite sex.

Granted that Zahavi studied birds in the African jungles for his book, but he has said in an interview last year that the behaviors displayed could also be found in humans.

So Bill Gates, he argues, is donating millions to various educational centers because it makes him look good (and it offsets the Microsoft jokes, too), although it doesn't hurt that he also gets a warm fuzzy feeling by making other people realize their dreams.

In short, there is always something to be had for doing something, whether one is aware of it or not.

The case of the fatal stroke

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MY BROTHER Rene was the artist in the family. Painting was his passion and writing was his vocation. But he was a true-blue nonconformist, sometimes nonconforming for nonconformity's sake—or so I thought.

He left a high-paying job in the city and built a small house on a small hill called "Apawan" in our remote town of Buhi in Camarines Sur. He erected a 30-foot sculpture of Jesus Christ agonizing in the garden of Gethsemane. He had his towering opus right in his front yard against the backdrop of Mt. Isarog. It became some sort of a mini-attraction in our small town.

Rene's high blood pressure was a big source of worry for our family. It was not so much that he had hypertension, but more the fact that he would not take the medicines he needed to control his blood pressure. He didn't believe the medicines I prescribed would heal him—ever the nonconformist.

He maintained a fatalistic attitude about life and the way one should live life. I remember "My Way" was his favorite song. He sure lived life his way and one balmy morning in November, two months after his 51st birthday, he had an excruciating headache, with a blood pressure of 220/130.

He was rushed to a hospital in Naga City where a CT scan showed a massive bleeding in the brain. We prepared to travel to Buhi by car in the evening but before we could live Manila, we got a call from his wife, Denia, that Rene had passed away.

My brother Rene, who taught me how to paint and write when I was small, had breathed his last.

Dying prematurely

Rene's death was a big irony in my life as a heart specialist. That my own brother would die prematurely from a medical problem, which I'm supposed to be a specialist in, haunted me for a while, like an unrelenting wind of a post-summer typhoon.

It is estimated that 22 percent of our adult population have high blood pressure defined as a BP of 140/90 or higher. Less than 15 percent of these hypertensives are adequately controlled. Many, like my brother Rene, are walking around with markedly elevated BPs without any symptom, until such time when they develop serious complications already.

They are what some would call "walking time bombs" because at any time, they could develop a heart attack or a stroke. In some instances, the first heart attack and stroke can be fatal.

Dr. Simeon Marasigan, a fraternity brod and now a highly respected brain specialist at the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital, sent me the following message about the forthcoming congress of the Stroke Society of the Philippines (SSP) aimed at gaining a better understanding of stroke and the means to prevent it:

"Declare War Against Brain Hemorrhage! Such is the call of the SSP, composed of the country's top specialists in the field of stroke, otherwise referred to as brain attack. The SSP issued this call on the occasion of Brain Attack Awareness Week and its highlight, the SSP's 3rd National Congress at the Manila Midtown Hotel on Aug. 22 to 23.

No. 1 killer in Asia

"Why all the excitement about strokes in general, and brain hemorrhage in particular? Stroke is the No. 2 killer worldwide (with five million deaths out of 20 million strokes each year), and is actually the No. 1 killer here in Asia. In the Philippines, stroke occurs in 500 per 100,000 population, with about 25 to 30 percent of patients dying within one year, leaving the survivors with various disabilities and complications.

"There are two major types of strokes, with the first (called 'ischemic stroke') resulting from blockages of the blood vessels supplying oxygen and nutrients to the brain, and the second (called 'hemorrhagic stroke') resulting from the breakage or 'blowout' of a blood vessel, either within the brain itself (intracerebral hemorrhage), or near the thin, delicate membrane surrounding the brain (subarachnoid hemorrhage). While both types of stroke are quite dangerous, hemorrhagic stroke has double to triple the mortality of ischemic stroke, and is thus the more lethal variety.

"The two-day congress will feature state-of-the-art lectures on brain structure and function, as well as the pathophysiology, epidemiology, clinical presentation and the latest diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitation modalities for hemorrhagic stroke. An important congress feature will be the afternoon session workshops which will attempt to set common Philippine standards for the diagnosis and management of this disease."

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, August 9, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	6,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15.5	16	15.5	16	58,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43.5	43	43	209,300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29.5	29	29	77,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	120,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35.5	35.5	35	35.5	316,600
Philippine National Bank	30	31	30	31	4,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1245	1255	1240	1255	1,610
Sun Life Financial Serv.	915	920	915	920	4,310
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.53	5,720,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	485	485	480	480	13,140
Ipeople Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	60,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.03	0.032	9,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	600,000
Piltel	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	2,240,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	280	285	280	285	139,890
Ivantage Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	200,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	1,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	19.5	18.75	19.5	9,600
Manila Electric Co. B	27	28	27	28	574,000
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.68	1.64	1.68	548,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	25,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	47,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	539,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	198,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	50,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.5	260,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	500
RFM Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.8	0.8	240,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	49	48	49	1,057,100
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	53.5	52.5	53.5	137,200
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	567,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	3,224,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	500,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	420,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.065	0.075	0.065	0.075	700,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12	12.5	11.75	12	1,991,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.0825	0.08	0.08	1,800,000
Ionics Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	32,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.61	5,600,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	600,000
Music Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	300,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	1,160,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	5,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	22	22	22	22	263,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series A	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series H	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10	10	3,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5	5	5	5	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.5	9,696,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	70,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,340,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,170,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.76	1.78	1.74	1.78	2,684,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	4,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.16	0.16	480,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	787,000
MINING					
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	300,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0026	0.0028	12,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.18	0.15	0.18	120,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	800,120	29,663,800.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	41,767,230	176,818,295.00
PRO	16,731,000	63,090,490.00
Mining	2,300,000	88,800.00
OIL	12,220,000	55,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	73,818,350	269,716,785.00

	AVERAGES
Banks & Fin Svc	439.87 UP 2.75
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,520.83 UP 18.63
PRO	500.86 DOWN 3.41
Mining	1,134.65 DOWN 2.37
OIL	1.37 UP 0.03
All Shares Index	643.91 UP 11.70
Composite	1,102.37 UP 9.12

NO. OF ADVANCES: 26; NO. OF DECLINES: 24; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 81; NO. OF TRADES: 1,492

CURRENCIES

Aug. 9, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.034019	1.000000	51.6630
Japan	Yen	0.008552	0.008271	0.4273
United Kingdom	Pound	1.583704	1.531600	79.1271
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.132569	0.128207	6.6236
Switzerland	Franc	0.683695	0.661201	34.1596
Canada	Dollar	0.654567	0.633032	32.7043
Singapore	Dollar	0.584192	0.564972	29.1881
Australia	Dollar	0.551477	0.533333	27.5536
Bahrain	Dinar	2.742902	2.652661	137.0444
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.275739	0.266667	13.7768
Brunei	Dollar	0.585018	0.565771	29.2294
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000111	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.024376	0.023574	1.2179
UAE	Dirham	0.281550	0.272287	14.0672
Korea	Won	0.000864	0.000836	0.0432
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.967100	49.9633
Argentina	Real	0.284854	0.275482	14.2322
Brazil	Real	0.355945	0.344234	17.7842
Denmark	Kroner	0.134602	0.130174	6.7252
India	Rupee	0.021285	0.020585	1.0635
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.272147	0.263193	13.5973
Mexico	New Peso	0.106140	0.102648	5.3031
New Zealand	Dollar	0.469645	0.454194	23.4650
Norway	Kroner	0.133630	0.129234	6.6766
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017408	0.016835	0.8697
South Africa	Rand	0.099454	0.096182	4.9691
Sweden	Kroner	0.107761	0.104216	5.3841
Syria	Pound	0.020117	0.019455	1.0051
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030638	0.029630	1.5308
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Assemblers . . .

From page B1

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Smart and Digitel should also be able to settle their landline interconnection row, one of the reasons Smart cited for its refusal to interconnect its cellular network with that of Digitel.

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"The bottom line here is that a delay in their interconnection should not inconvenience their subscribers," he said.

Aboitiz food unit buys out American partner

By Doris C. Dumlao

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A non-binding letter of intent on the buyout had been signed by the respective parties on Aug. 7 while financial closing is expected on or before Oct. 30 this year, the disclosure said. No valuation for the stake to be acquired was given.

"The acquisition strengthens and further diversifies Pilmico's focus and core competence in the grain milling industry," the disclosure said.

Fil-Am Foods, which uses the marketing brand name PMI Nutrition, is registered with the Board of Investments. It has a feed mill in Capas, Tarlac, which has an annual capacity of more than 100,000 metric tons of feeds to supply the needs of livestock and poultry producers.

"As part of the letter of intent, PM Nutrition Inc. will continue to supply technology, feed mill management and associated technical support to Fil-Am Foods," the disclosure said. "This is consistent with Fil-Am's strategic direction of being a leader in technology in the industry and always providing differentiated products and services to its customers."

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Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, August 9, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	6,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15.5	16	15.5	16	58,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43.5	43	43	209,300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29.5	29	29	77,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	120,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35.5	35.5	35	35.5	316,600
Philippine National Bank	30	31	30	31	4,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1245	1255	1240	1255	1,610
Sun Life Financial Serv.	915	920	915	920	4,310
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.53	5,720,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	485	485	480	480	13,140
Ipeople Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	60,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.03	0.032	9,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	600,000
Piltel	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	2,240,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	280	285	280	285	139,890
Ivantage Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	200,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	1,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	19.5	18.75	19.5	9,600
Manila Electric Co. B	27	28	27	28	574,000
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.68	1.64	1.68	548,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	25,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	47,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	539,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	198,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	50,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.5	260,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	500
RFM Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.8	0.8	240,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	49	48	49	1,057,100
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	53.5	52.5	53.5	137,200
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	567,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	3,224,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	500,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	420,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.065	0.075	0.065	0.075	700,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12	12.5	11.75	12	1,991,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.0825	0.08	0.08	1,800,000
Ionics Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	32,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.61	5,600,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	600,000
Music Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	300,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	1,160,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	5,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	22	22	22	22	263,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series A	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series H	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10	10	3,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5	5	5	5	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.5	9,696,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	70,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,340,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,170,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.76	1.78	1.74	1.78	2,684,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	4,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.16	0.16	480,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	787,000
MINING					
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	300,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0026	0.0028	12,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.18	0.15	0.18	120,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	800,120	29,663,800.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	41,767,230	176,818,295.00
PRO	16,731,000	63,090,490.00
Mining	2,300,000	88,800.00
OIL	12,220,000	55,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	73,818,350	269,716,785.00

	AVERAGES
Banks & Fin Svc	439.87 . UP 2.75
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,520.83 . UP 18.63
PRO	500.86 DOWN 3.41
Mining	1,134.65 . DOWN 2.37
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2002

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

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L-BAHAY 712-16-92

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MANILA

Investment Prop Near UST 250sq.m Txl 0917-4149898

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KAPITOLYO LA375m² 3BR 3TB w/Prkng • Tel 746-7525

Well Maintained 3BR 2TB Kapitolyo 634-1212

QUEZON CITY

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HOUSE & LOT

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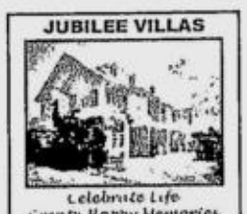
Tel. 636-0279 or 632-7061

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

JUBILEE VILLAS



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WACK² Royal parking space grd level 6337601-03

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PROVINCIAL

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CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

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Nr Megamall 10T 5315809

PASAY

2BR Cuenca/Lib •T831-5026•

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Female P3.5 4381480

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

BET LVG PQE 4BR 3TB TEL 18T/MO 09177948571 BONG

PASIG

KAPITOLYO STUDIO 631-9239

QUEZON CITY

NR UP 3BR 2T&B P9.5T/MO. CALL 932-2128/931-0685

Studio Type H'o No Prob 20th Ave cor Bayanin Call 912-0717 Look 4 Paz

PROVINCIAL

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★99 ATOZ 270T very cute sedan looks like Toyota Echo very nice A1 cond must see! Call 731-7984/731-6550

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★96BESTA 150T A1 Cond, Free LTO reg'n, financing OK!731-7984 / 731-6550

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★97 SENTRA SS 315T A1Cond 7317984

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Buy Sell Col HS Plan 7149738

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2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

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NURSE Midwife Reg/Non Reg Pref Cainta Resident 6822941

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of late PAULINA S. PANGILINAN was extrajudicially settled by an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication by the sole heir as per Doc141 Page30 Book! Series 2002 before Notary Public Joselito C. Frial of QC
PDI July 27, August 3&10, 20002

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late RAMON J. BUENO was extrajudicially settled by his heirs with Deed of Absolute Sale as per Doc No. 550, Page No. 87, Book No. I, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Siegfred B. Mison of Quezon City.
PDI August 10,17 & 24, 2002

Notice is hereby given that the estate of LEONORA R. GARCIA was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc 118, Page 25, Book III, Series of 2001 Before Notary Public Federico Claudio G. Sandoval of Pasig
(PDI- Aug. 10,17 & 24 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

LOST BROWN NATIVE DOG male big built with blue collar Last seen Aug.4 near Luz Facial Visayas Ave. Vasra Village, Q.C. Call 4536765 or (0917)9630392 or (0917)4112934 BIG REWARD NO QUESTIONS ASKED

Notice is given that the Passport of Mr. Ali Salimi with No.I2167428 has been declared Lost. If Found Call Cellphone 0919-4192131

PERSONAL

Olea see ASAP Blanco

SHAREN R. GONZALES HAPPY B-DAY FROM MOM & DAD

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Chem Asia expo at Asean confab

THE FIRST Asean chemical industry exposition Chem Asia Trade and Technology Exhibits will be held in time for the 32nd Asean Chemical Industry Club (ACIC) Board of Directors Meeting and Conference on Oct. 15 to 17 at the Edsa Shangrila Hotel.

Chem Asia features the companies behind the products, brands and services that bolster growth and success of the chemical industry. The exhibit highlights key areas in process operations, research and development, testing, quality control, plant design and construction, purchasing, sales and distribution for various sectors and industries.

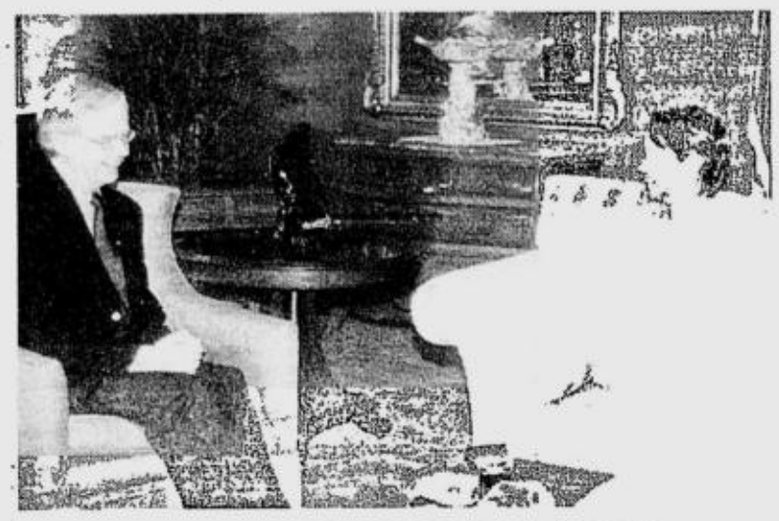
Organized by the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika, the exhibit will also highlight the latest in chemical process equipment, instrumentation and control, plant-wide automation, powder processing equipment, engineered materials, safety and environment equipment, maintenance and retrofit, raw materials.

Visitors' attendance is projected to exceed expectations with the continuing growth of the chemical sector, and with the exhibit providing the excellent venue in optimizing business opportunities between manufacturers and suppliers. The events' significant timing comes as the Asean Chemical Industries Club continues to coordinate the efforts of the national industries and translate these into opportunities to better compete in the world marketplace.

Interested exhibit participants may call the secretariat at 812-9854, 895-57-35, 895-2392; fax numbers 814-0970; 890-7532, e-mail spik@pacific.net.ph or meetings@philonline.com

MOISSANITE IN SM CITY DAVAO

Moissanite opened its newest branch in SM City Davao. Shown, from left, are Moissanite Davao GM Auda Cynthia Tacandong, Davao Vice Mayor Luis Bonguyan, Moissanite Philippines GM Mia Florencio, and Joseph Ambar, international marketing director of Charles & Colvard USA. Visit the Moissanite showrooms at Glorietta I, Ayala Center, Makati, SM City North Edsa, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, and SM City Davao.



SUN LIFE FINANCIAL CHAIR MEETS GMA

Donald Stewart, Sun Life Financial chair and CEO, recently paid a courtesy call to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacañang July 18. Stewart assured Arroyo of Sun Life Financial's solid commitment to the Philippines manifested by the Canadian company's opening of two subsidiaries – Sun Life Asset Management Co. Inc. (mutual funds) and Sun Life Financial Plans Inc. (pre-need plans). Sun Life of Canada has been serving the life insurance requirements of Filipino families for 107 years.

Highly charged run for Q-mile

IT WAS a day of surprises for drag racing enthusiasts as the 5th leg of Shell-Prospeed's Quartermile Championship Drag Racing drew to a highly charged conclusion Aug. 3 at the Manila Harbor Center.

Proving itself as the country's most popular venue for legal drag racing, Quartermile drew the participation of 65 racers from all over the country.

Claiming bragging rights for the 5th leg was Ryan Lee of ATI Racing who won the Quick 8 category. On board his B-16 powered Honda EG Civic, Lee blasted through the track with a 12.9-second run, beating the Lancer Evolution V of Justin Ong of Team Autoplus. "It's not how your car looks that matters. It all boils down to the engine setup of the car," says Lee.

In other classes, Pro Class B was won by Jon Sarmiento of Blanche Racing against a formidable Peng Diaz of Tony Llames Racing.

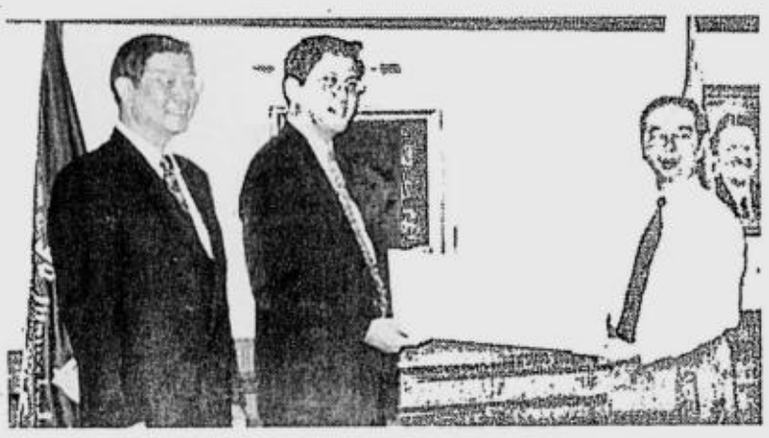
Class C was a toss-up between Mico Vinarao and Carlo Manuel of Stripteasers. Vinarao won via break-out.

Pro Class D was a fight to the finish between Mark Tindoy of 2Schnell and Don Carino of Team R-Mode. The All-turbo category was dominated by Jesus Miano and John Chua of MSF Autoworks.

Quartermile is organized by Prospeed and is sponsored by Shell Velocity, Shell-Citibank Mastercard, ATI Diesel, ZF Ecomat, Eibach, Nodalo's, Drag Racing Pinoy.com, Karcher, Autoindustriya, Fremuff and Sherwin Williams Paint. The next leg of the Quartermile Drag Racing Championship is on Aug. 31.

PLIA CELEBRATES WITH CAMACHO

The Philippine Life Insurance Association (Plia), the umbrella organization of all life insurance companies in the Philippines, recently celebrated its anniversary with Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho as guest of honor and speaker. Insurance commissioner lawyer Eduardo T. Malinis and deputy commissioner Vida T. Chiong also graced the occasion. Plia is at the forefront of a life insurance awareness campaign to inform the public of the benefits of life insurance. The campaign's theme is 'LIFE is good!', LIFE meaning 'Life Insurance for Everyone'.



PDIC CONTRIBUTES P1B

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) turned over Aug. 8 to the national government advance cash dividends amounting to P1 billion derived from PDIC's 2002 income on investments. PDIC's investible funds amount to P28.6 billion as of June 30. Under its charter, PDIC is mandated to invest solely in government or government-guaranteed fixed income instruments. PDIC chair Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho, together with PDIC president and CEO Norberto C. Nazareno turned over the amount to National Treasurer Sergio Edeza Jr. in simple ceremonies at the Department of Finance.

COKE PAVILION DRAW CROWDS

The Coca-Cola Pavilion opens after renovations in time for the plant visit season this school year 2002 – 2003. The exhibits have been redesigned and new museum items have been added for display. Coca-Cola Pavilion supervisor Yazmin Diangzon explains the history behind the age-old Coke bottles to the students of Feati University. Interested parties who wish to visit the Coca-Cola Pavilion may call (049) 5413671.

BITS Clips

Art exhibit at Enterprise Center

SEN. NOLI 'Kabayan' De Castro led the unveiling of 'Eclectic Expressions II' art exhibit Aug. 5 at the Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. On view is a wide array of the best works of renowned artists Prudencio Lamarroza, Tam Austria, Manuel Baldemor, Emmanuel Garibay, Philipp Badon, Edsel Moscoso, Angelito Antonio, Remy Boquiren, Caloy Gabuco, Marcel Antonio, Jeff Dizon, Al Bandalan, Fred Alcuaz, Norma Belleza, Bal Fornaliza, Gene De Loyola and Nestor Leynes. The show is organized by Galeria De Nava, Malate's premier art gallery. Exhibit runs until Aug. 17. For inquiries, call 935-3272 or 303-7086.

PhilCAT confab Aug. 20

IN 2000, the National Tuberculosis Program Report showed that there were 170 TB cases in every 100,000 Filipino population. Recognizing the extent and impact of tuberculosis in the Philippines, the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis (PhilCAT) will hold its 9th Annual Convention at the Manila Midtown Hotel on Aug. 20 and 21. The convention will focus on the theme "TB 2002, Critical Issues and Urgent Concerns". It would feature consensus updates such as TB in the workplace, Pediatric TB and the National TB program. There will be five plenary sessions, and eight convention symposia. Interested health professionals, civil and government sectors can call Amy Sarmiento at 749-8990 or e-mail philcat@pacific.net.ph.

Beyblade high-speed challenge

A NEW, exciting game of wit and skill involving the use of a high-performance top toy, which should be thrown and spun by players in the stadium to earn the highest number of points, shall be unveiled through a series of mini-competitions by Ban Kee Trading Inc. Dubbed as the "Beyblade High-Speed Challenge", the mini-tournaments will be held again on Aug. 25, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Pocket Collector, Glorietta, Makati and Gameworx, Festival Supermall, Muntinlupa City. The first competitions were held Aug. 4. All entries, open to kids 7 to 12 years old, shall be limited to five major layer Bayblade structures. For more information, call the Beyblade hotline at 732-7884. Takara Beyblade products are exclusively distributed by Ban Kee Trading Inc. and are available in all leading department stores and toy shops nationwide.

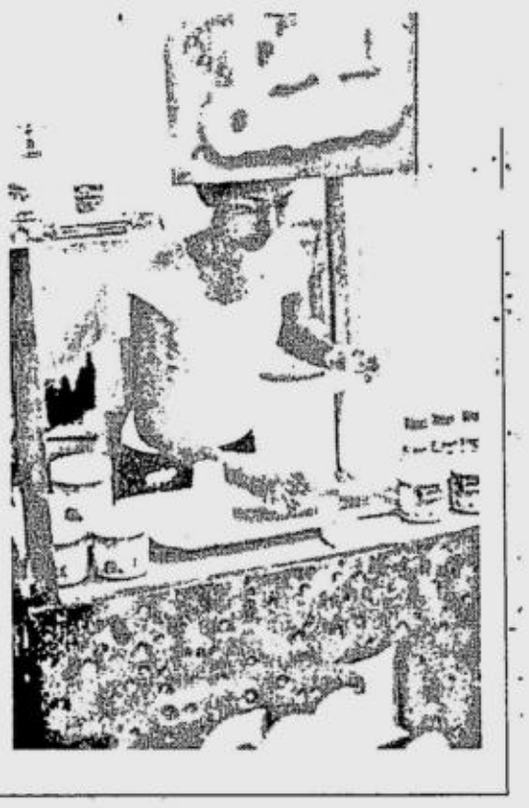
ProductFILES

Cool Choice Calamansi product sampling

COOL CHOICE Calamansi Powder, the first and only unsweetened natural calamansi (Philippine lemon) juice in powder form, earned the approval of participants and visitors of the 28th Seminar Series on Food and Nutrition Researches of the Department of Science and Technology in Taguig. Filtrite Inc. is the distributor of Cool Choice.

This natural calamansi powder has no preservatives, no artificial coloring and flavoring, and no added sugar. You can add sugar or your preferred sweetener, suitable for diabetics and health-conscious individuals.

Each 100-g canister contains 4 kilos of calamansi that makes 23 or more glasses, costing a little over P4 per glass. Cool Choice Calamansi is naturally rich in Vitamin C. It is exported abroad and is now available in leading supermarkets in Metro Manila. Cool Choice Dalandan Powder is also available. For inquiries, call 367-2920 or 21, 367-2946 and 363-5061.



SOFTWARE PIONEER'S PRESENCE IN RP

Borland Software Corp., a leading provider of technology that helps companies develop, deploy, and integrate software applications, has chosen Ecommsite Solutions Inc., a local provider of customized, complete, and cost-effective e-business solutions, to be its authorized solutions partner in the Philippines. Established in 1983, Borland Software is an industry pioneer, having developed one of the very first development environments, Turbo Pascal. The program made the commercial development of PC applications possible. Present during the contract signing were (from left) Philippine Borland users group president Rocky Castaneda, Ecommsite president Roel Hernandez, Borland Hong Kong country manager Andrew Wong, and Borland Hong Kong practice manager Walter Mok.

'CONNECTEAM 2002': POWER OF WINNING TEAM

Nortel Networks recently hosted an event for its system integrator and global alliance partners at the Conservatory of The Manila Peninsula Hotel. Titled 'ConnecTeam 2002: The Power of a Winning Partnership,' the event was highlighted by the launch of new and exciting programs for Nortel Network's data networking channel partners. Shown are Nortel Networks' channels team and channel partner executives involved in the event, from left, James Quiocho, channels manager, Nortel Networks, Armando Pascual, channels director, Nortel Networks, Renan Velonza, president, Trends & Technologies, Emmanuel Portugal, country manager, communications sector, IBM, Bing Fano, channels manager, Nortel Networks, Jose Paloma, president, Micro-D International, David Elliott, channels-Asean, Nortel Networks, Hasan Fard, chair and CEO, Trends & Technologies, Don Davies, business development manager, 3D Networks.

Balanced nose, fearless boss

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

UNDER heavy attack from media is Gloriaetta, mainly for the "war" of this cute administration against criminality, and her being involved in it, herself, quite openly.

Lately, Gloriaetta is always in the picture, or video footage, when the Pacer or the NBI presents some suspects to the media. The key word here is "media."

Some media people do not like it. They are saying that, by appearing in media herself as leading the campaign, Gloriaetta is guilty of a serious, grievous, heinous crime.

And that is, she is only trying to project a public image that she's actually in charge in this country. Look, ma, she even wants to be on top of the anti-crime campaign.

Something is wrong here. In my household, Gloriaetta is also known as the President of the Republic. As such, we thought she should be in charge of everything.

Of course some media people know better. To them, the President cannot be in charge of solving what everybody is nagging her about as our biggest problem.

* * *

PRESISTENTLY, surveys show that the biggest concern of the business community is peace and order. In other words, even businessmen are worry sick over the rising criminality.

Crime gets a lot of media attention. Media can always see to it that we get our daily overdose of crime reports, from petty crimes to big-time operations of syndicates.

This is a country in the grip of fear for the safety of life and property, not to mention chastity. Crime is in the news three times a day—morning, noon and night.

Down here, we only rely on what we get from media. Crime is what is fed us, right in this media-celebrity culture of ours. Media give criminals their rightful space.

That creates a tremendous amount of fear among the public. Every friend of mine now thinks that he or his family can be the next victim. Me, I have already been one.

Thus, everybody is terrorized. I'm afraid we are becoming a dispirited people. We are a frightened country. Nobody wants our national pastime to become nail-biting.

* * *

LATELY, by the way, the Social Security System is also in the news for beginning to sound like parents whose kids are terrorizing them for new toys.

The SSS cannot stop talking about how it does not have enough money. It is the only financial institution that takes every chance to talk about its problems with money.

Normally, financial institutions want the public to think of them as strong. Does that make the SSS . . . well, not normal?

The SSS is giving out more benefits than the contributions it gets from the members. Its life is on the balance. For if the SSS is a nose, it is smelling more than it can chew or something like that.

Anyway, the SSS says its money can last for only another 13 years or so, and then all the retiring members can say goodbye to their pension.

But what explains this unusual candor? I think it's a scare tactic. The SSS wants to scare the daylight out of everybody. Also, mind you, through media!

* * *

IT so happens that the SSS is pushing for a plan that requires its members to pay a bigger contribution. It also boasts that under its plan, the low-income members will not pay as much as the high-income members. Hmmm. I see.

Members of the SSS are just employees. Would you believe, boss, that it is actually not up to them.

For if employees have any voice on the matter, its volume is going to be much lower than the sound of my flatulence.

The real audience of the SSS on the issue should be the employers. They contribute to the SSS much more than the employees. They are against the plan.

Most of the employers of the SSS members are small and medium sized businesses. The SSS contribution is already such a big cost item to them. Which can make you wonder if the SSS scare tactic is working. If the SSS is going bankrupt, it should even be good news to the employers. Good riddance!

* * *

BUT back to the heinous criminal Gloriaetta, I know that a lot of people are eager for something to tilt that balance of terror that is now in favor of criminals.

And so this cute administration of Gloriaetta chooses to do it through an "all-out war" against crime—well, of course, cum publicity.

Some media people say such an anti-crime campaign is, therefore, just a publicity stunt. For why does the boss keep on appearing in media herself? What's that—fearless boss?

As for me, anyway, I don't care much about whether the campaign is an "all-out war" or it's just a "foot-licking" campaign. I just want it also to get a lot of media attention.

That, precisely, should counter the terror which media had, maybe unwittingly, wrought upon the public. I don't think that only criminals must have access to media.

Media have no choice. It must cover the anti-crime campaign. You know—equal space, balanced news, fair reporting, or whatever they call it in journalism books.

Then hopefully people will start thinking, hey, the criminals do not get away with it all the time after all. Me, well, maybe I won't wet my bed at night anymore.

* * *

PEACE and order is our biggest problem. And yet let's say Gloriaetta, as the President, herself does not get personally involved in the solution to this mother of all problems.

I will personally dedicate all my wet dreams to somebody else from now on. What I'm saying is, it's only her duty to solve the problem. What is wrong here?

If what's wrong is Gloriaetta's appearing in media too much, the publicity part of it, it's not as if Gloriaetta herself decides what does and does not come out in media.

It is then the fault of media. Only media people can decide what comes out. Media can always decide the anti-crime campaign is only a publicity stunt.

Yet to some media people, if media decide to put out Gloriaetta's photos almost every day, it is purely her fault and nothing but her fault.

Let me see if I get this right—so media report a lot of crime, creating terror among the people, and to balance the terror, media must also report the anti-crime campaign, but then Gloriaetta appears in the news, which makes her a bad person, because she is doing her job as President—is that it?

Equitable PCI to issue tier-two bonds worth P5B

By Clarissa S. Batino

EQUITABLE PCI Bank has tapped Deutsche Bank to underwrite the issuance in October of P5 billion worth of tier-two bonds, a long-term borrowing that investors can convert into equity upon maturity.

"The board has appointed Deutsche Bank. We intend to issue the notes in October but we haven't decided yet on which part will be denominated in pesos and which will be in dollars, or if we'll have everything in one denomination," said Equitable PCI president Rene Buenaventura.

Equitable PCI also approved a plan to sell its thrift bank subsidiary Ecology Bank. Buenaventura admitted that one of the three banks they were negotiating with was East West Bank of the Gotianun family, which also owns Filinvest Land Inc.

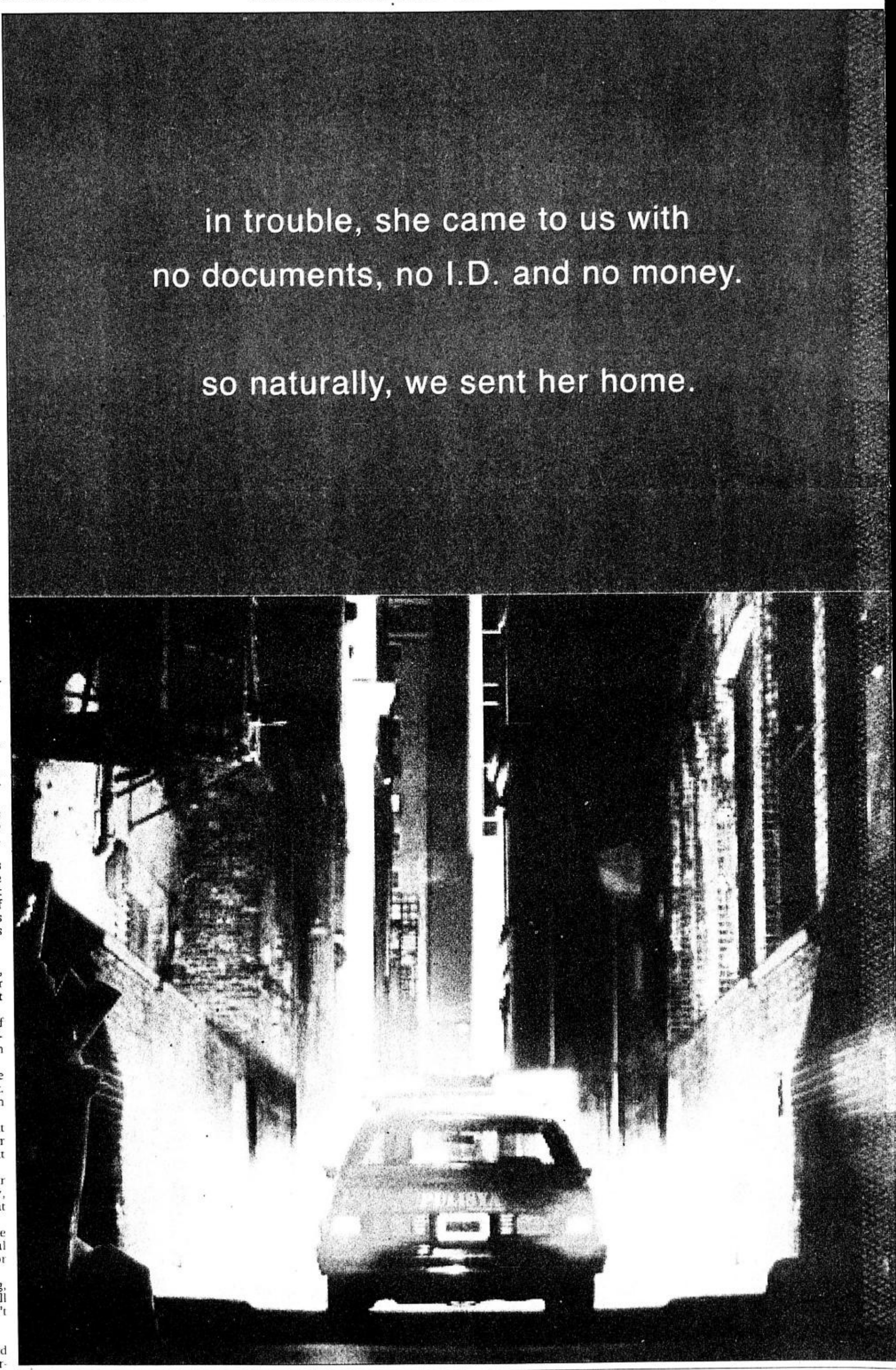
"A decision on Ecology will be made most likely by the middle of next month," said Buenaventura. If plans push through, East West Bank intends to merge Ecology's 39 branches with its existing 30 outlets.

Equitable PCI, which ranks fourth largest in terms of assets, is in need of additional capital to help rebuild its finances.

So far, only the Metrobank Group and Banco de Oro had tapped the market for tier-two funds. Metrobank, the country's largest bank, issued $100 million in two-tier bonds late last year to a venture capital in Singapore. It said the funds were used to buy dollar-denominated government securities.

Equitable PCI recently got the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' approval for the issuance of $100 million and P5-billion worth of tier-two capital. The central bank believed that tapping the market for convertible borrowings was an easier way to raise capital compared with outright equity infusion.

The tier-two capital is believed to be more expensive for banks but higher yielding for investors who get fixed yields.



WorldCom discloses $3.3B more in misreported earnings

WASHINGTON—The scandal surrounding WorldCom Inc. took a dramatic turn late Thursday as the beleaguered US telecom giant admitted discovering an additional $3.3 billion in improperly reported earnings.

The announcement brought to $7.1 billion the total earnings misreported by the once high-flying Clinton, Mississippi-based telecommunications company, which filed last month for bankruptcy protection.

"The amounts disclosed today have previously been disclosed to the SEC and other investigative authorities," the company said in a statement, referring to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

It added that as a result of the discovery, it intended to reissue its financial statements for 2000.

According to the company, which owns MCI—the second largest US telephone company—and operates a large portion of the Internet, the newly discovered accounting irregularities are expected to lead to a reevaluation of WorldCom's assets and their likely reduction by $50.6 billion.

"The company will also reevaluate the carrying value of existing property, plant and equipment as to the possible impairment of historic values previously reported," the statement pointed out.

The reassessment could further cloud WorldCom's efforts to reorganize its business while satisfying creditors as part of the bankruptcy process, the largest in US corporate history, according to business experts.

Earlier Thursday, Internet service provider SBC Communications asked a federal bankruptcy judge in New York to come up with a plan that would ensure that SBC received prompt payment for telecommunications services it continued to provide MCI WorldCom.

Such requests, if repeated by other WorldCom partners, could make it extremely difficult for WorldCom to continue operating, the experts said.

The corporate giant, whose disclosed misdeed played a key role in setting off the most dramatic US stock market slide since the 1930s, listed assets of $107 billion against liabilities of $41 billion in its bankruptcy petition.

WorldCom shook financial markets in June when it admitted to $3.8-billion accounting "irregularities" by presenting its current expenses as capital outlays and thus boosting its balance sheet. ***AFP***

Japan poised to contract

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund on Thursday said Japan's beleaguered economy was poised to contract this year as risks remained. It urged authorities to battle pervasive deflation.

In its annual review of the Japanese economy, the Washington-based lender projected Japan's economy would contract 0.5 percent in 2002 as it did last year, while prices were expected to tailspin for the fourth year running.

The IMF forecast prices would drop one percent this year after a 0.7-percent decline in 2001, a situation with no end in sight as wholesale prices remained flat for the fifth consecutive month in July. Consumer spending was also stagnant and imports remained cheap.

The world's second richest economy is in its third recession in a decade, its worst in a generation.

While the fund welcomed recent improvements, such as higher private consumption and business investment in the first quarter, it said "considerable downside risks" remained in Japan.

The lender called on the Bank of Japan to implement monetary policy that would put an early end to deflation, which had plagued its economy since 1999. The BoJ's current expansionary monetary policy was unlikely to stop prices from tumbling, the IMF said. ***Reuters***

Standard Chartered

We were a bit startled when one of our customers from Malaysia approached us after being robbed during her vacation. Stranded, she had no means of returning to her country. The thief had taken all her cash, her cellphone and even her passport. Still, we would never turn our back on a client. So we notified our offices in Kuala Lumpur, fixed her up with new documents and financed her trip back home.

With branches in over 50 major countries, we at Standard Chartered Bank are able to serve our clients even when they're far away from home. We believe it is this kind of responsiveness and commitment that has helped define us throughout our existence. Today, we celebrate our 130th year in the Philippines. We can't be everywhere at once, but we're there when we're needed the most.

CREATIVE | TRUSTWORTHY | 130 YEARS OF BANKING IN THE PHILIPPINES

Hong Kong puts record numbers on the dole

HONG KONG—The sick Hong Kong economy has pushed the number of welfare recipients here up by 1.2 percent to a record high as joblessness also reaches new peaks, the government said Friday.

The number of people receiving the government payments rose to 258,085 in July, when more than 37,000 were added to the welfare rolls.

The welfare payments have gone up along with unemployment, which hit a record of 7.7 percent in the April-June quarter.

Hong Kong used to be a booming commercial hub but has slumped badly in recent years and now is abuzz with worries of corporate layoffs. ***AP***

Brazil's IMF aid buys time, but politics key

NEW YORK—Thanks to a wealthy patron in Washington, Brazil can now buy $30 billion worth of tranquillity for its tattered markets, ravaged by months of concern about the likely direction of the Latin American economic powerhouse after October's presidential election.

The International Monetary Fund unveiled the $30-billion aid package late on Wednesday, giving both Brazil and Brazil investors a record-sized lifeline to withstand the tempestuous election season.

But the IMF's checkbook can only do so much. The cash reservoir may fortify a feeble currency and its impact on Brazil's finely balanced $250 billion of public debt, but it cannot buy answers to Wall Street's nagging questions about the economic policies of leading presidential contenders.

For investors, a solution rests on one of two possible shifts in the political winds: Either Jose Serra, the government candidate, digs his way out of a paltry third place in the polls or the two leftist front-runners convince investors they will not waver from reforms and economic stability built by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, analysts say.

"An improvement by Serra in the polls would reassure markets, or, alternatively, if Lula and Ciro were to move convincingly to the center that too would help," said Matt Ryan, emerging markets portfolio manager at MFS Investment Management.

"But it's unclear whether either Lula or Ciro have the intent or credibility to do that," Ryan added.

US wholesale inflation tame, job picture better

WASHINGTON—US wholesale prices fell unexpectedly in July, leaving little worry of inflation and giving the Federal Reserve ample time to keep interest rates at 40-year lows while the economy staggers to recovery.

In addition, the labor market is showing signs of slow improvement in the face of growing economic uncertainty. But sales at discount stores—the kingpin of consumer spending during the slowdown—came in lower than expected, latest data on Thursday showed.

The Labor Department's Producer Price Index, a closely watched gauge of inflation at the wholesale level, declined by 0.2 percent, defying Wall Street economists' expectations of a slight 0.1-percent gain.

The department said excluding declines in prices for both cars and light trucks that were brought on by zero percent financing deals and other producer incentives, the overall wholesale inflation index would have been unchanged.

Economists agreed the PPI report confirmed that inflation was indeed not a threat. And most of Wall Street believes the Fed is not likely to cut interest rates any time soon, even with a weakening economic picture.

Policymakers will meet Tuesday to set interest rates.

SZOPAD SOCIAL FUND
SPECIAL ZONE OF PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
PHILIPPINES

INVITATION FOR BID
SZOPAD SOCIAL FUND

Date : August 08, 2002
Loan No.: 799P
IFB - 02 - 08 - 02

1. The Government of the Philippines through the SZOPAD Social Fund has received a loan from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development toward the cost of SZOPAD Social Fund Project and it intends to apply a portion of this loan to eligible payment for the Off Grid Rural Electrification Project.
2. The SZOPAD Social Fund now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, delivery, installation, test and commissioning of the entire five (5) Packages of Off-Grid Power System, as follows:

Package 1.	Project Code	:	P12-00476
	Project Location	:	Pababag, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
Package 2.	Project Code	:	P11-00854
	Project Location	:	Capual, Luuk, Sulu
Package 3.	Project Code	:	P12-00475
	Project Location	:	Lambug, Parangan, P. Sugala, Tawi-Tawi
Package 4.	Project Code	:	P12-00477
	Project Location	:	Marang Marang, Languyan, Tawi-Tawi
Package 5.	Project Code	:	P11-00855
	Project Location	:	Kabukan, Panglima Tahil, Sulu

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedures specified in the OPEC Fund for the International Development procurement Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from SZOPAD Social Fund and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 2,000 per copy starting **August 12, 2002**. The method of payment will be on cash basis only.
6. Bids must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend at 10:00 A.M. on **September 16, 2002** at the SZOPAD Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and must be accompanied by a minimum bid security of 2% of the total bid amount.
7. Interested bidders are invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference to be held at SZOPAD Social Fund Office on **August 16, 2002** at 1:00 P.M.

Republic of the Philippines
SZOPAD Social Fund
3/F VHW (Land Bank) Bldg.
Veterans Ave., Zamboanga City
Tel. (062) 992-2684-86 / 992-2706
Fax (062) 991-9410
Email: Edlim@mozcom.com

Attn: **MR. EDWARD I. LIM**
Executive Director

(PDI--Aug. 8, 9 & 10, 2002)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

Trans Co

INVITATION TO MANUFACTURERS, SUPPLIERS, DISTRIBUTORS, AND CONTRACTORS

The **Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of National Power Corporation - GENCO 6 and South Luzon - TRANSCO** shall conduct a **General Registration of Manufacturers, Suppliers, and Contractors** who wish to participate in public biddings of Goods, Supplies, Materials and Related Services (including Janitorial Services) and for infrastructure requirements.

Contractors for infrastructure Projects shall have PCAB License and IAC classification not limited to the following:

I. General Engineering - Roads; Flood Control and Drainage; Water Supply
II. General Building - Building and Industrial Park
III. Specialties - Plumbing and Sanitary Work; Electrical Work; Mechanical Work; Air-conditioning and Refrigeration; Painting Works

Applicants shall submit the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year or more frequently when needed by the supplier or contractor:

a) Letter of Application for Registration indicating if applying at GENCO6 or South Luzon TRANSCO (if for both, submit separate sets of requirements);
b) Copy of DTI business name registration or SEC registration certificate including Articles of Incorporation, whichever maybe appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines;
c) Copy of Valid Mayor's permit/municipal license;
d) Copy of Taxpayer's Identification Number;
e) Copy of Valid VAT Registration Certificate;
f) Copy of Financial Statements duly stamped by the BIR for years 2000 and 2001;
g) Copy of Valid PCAB License and IAC Registration (for infrastructure);
h) Certification of Supplier and Contractor, under oath, that each of the documents submitted is an original or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original;
i) Statement of the prospective bidders, under oath, that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office, or corporation, including, in the case of procurement of infrastructure projects, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines.

The BAC shall issue a Certificate of Official Registration after it has verified proper submission of all registration requirements and shall maintain the Registry of Suppliers and Contractors. This certification shall be attached to Application for Eligibility Screening in lieu of the LEGAL DOCUMENTS whenever suppliers or contractors participates in NPC-GENCO6 or South Luzon - TRANSCO (SLT) eligibility screening and biddings.

Application for Registration shall be accepted at GENCO6/SLT Procurement Office and Contracts Management Office (CMO), National Power Corporation, Brgy. San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC):

(Sgd.) **ROMULO H. HERRERA**
Chairman - GENCO6

(Sgd.) **R. D. RAMAS, M.D.**
Chairman - South Luzon-TRANSCO

(PDI - Aug. 10, 2002)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID
AD NO. PD2002-20

Opening Date : August 26, 2002 - 9:00 a.m.
E-Bidding Date :

2002-20-01 **CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND HARDWARE** (Fascia Board, Lumber, Stainless Steel Sheet, Paint, Tinting Color, Sealant, Door-Knob, Gate Valve, Faucet, Tank Fitting Set, Bulb, Flourescent Fixtures, etc.)

2002-20-02 **POWER QUALITY ANALYZER**, 8 differential input channel (4-voltage and 4-current)

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **August 9, 2002** upon payment of P50.00 per schedule which is non refundable and presentation of **TIN/supplier's number (DCE)**.

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents **mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.** For inquiries please call No. 921-2574. Last day of issuance of bidding documents **August 21, 2002**.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - Aug. 10 & 12, 2002)

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

dti DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **C & E CORPORATION** with office address at **Meralco Avenue cor. Gen. Araneta Street, Pasig City** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise knows as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New IT Service Firm in the field of IT-Enabled Services (Engineering & Design)** at a capacity of **443,000 manhours per year** with project site at the same office address stated above has been officially accepted on **July 31, 2002** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 31st day of July 2002.

(Sgd.) **DOMINGO I. BAGAPORO**
Officer-In-Charge
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Aug. 10, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippine • Telephone 925-24-01

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids, re: supply of labor, tools and materials for the **INSTALLATION OF FIRE ALARM SYSTEM & SMOKE/ HEAT DETECTOR.**

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of intent / co. profile
2. SEC registration
3. Bus. License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before August 26, 2002 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--Aug. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 & 19, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the:

SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS AND SUPERVISION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) UNIT HOT WATER TREATMENT PLANT AT TARLAC

Only pre-qualified bidders as of August 28, 2002 shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held on September 26, 2002 at the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Lobby, Quezon City at 9:00 a.m.

Pre-qualification forms shall be issued starting August 9, 2002 at SRA, Quezon City and the deadline for the submission of said requirements shall be on August 23, 2002.

The list of qualified bidders shall be released on August 26, 2002. Issuance of bid tender forms shall be issued starting August 29 for a non-refundable cost of Php 700.00 each.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on September 12 at the SRA lobby at 9:00 a.m.

All bids must be accompanied by bid bonds in the amount of 2.5% of the total budget allocation - either in cash, Manager's check or GSIS bond.

For further inquiries, please call:

THE SECRETARIAT - Metro Manila
SRA Bidding and Awards Committee
Tel. No. 929-68-37

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defect therein, and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI--Aug. 9, 10 & 11, 2002)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 631-84-92
Direct Line: 633-72-03
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 locals 2105
2006

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL

The Department of Education (DepEd) is in need of a lot to be used as a school site for the relocation of the Balagtas Elementary School in Batangas City. The approved budget for the project is P 13,000,000.00.

The proposed site should meet the following criteria:

1. Area should not be less than 5,000 square meters.
2. With clean Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) and free from liens and encumbrances.
3. Must be located within a radius of not less than 150 meters from cockpits, malls, gambling dens, cinema houses, beer and videoke joints, jails, industrial establishments, military quarters, public markets, slaughterhouses and garbage dumps.
4. Must be easily accessible to the greatest number of pupils within Brgy. Balagtas, Batangas City.
5. The contour of the land should be level and have no irregular boundaries, and will not require voluminous filling.
6. The subsoil should provide a proper base for economical and substantial foundation of the buildings to be constructed.
7. Must have a suitable frontage on a public road or should be nearby and have direct open vehicular access to the public road
8. With regular supply of water and electricity.
9. No history of flooding.

All interested bidders must avail of the bidding documents starting **August 12 to 27, 2002** at BAC Secretariat, Rm. 112, Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg. DepEd Complex, Pasig City.

All proposals must be submitted on **September 10, 2002**, 10:00 AM at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. A pre-bid conference will be held on **August 27, 2002** at the same time and place mentioned above.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all proposals to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the proposals.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd BAC

(PDI--Aug. 8, 10 & 15, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Science Education Institute
Shaping the Future Now

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Science Education Institute (SEI) is inviting interested local licensed electrical contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid and to participate in the public bidding for the project:

Upgrading of the Electrical System of the Third and Fourth (Deck) Floor of the PTRI Building Occupied by the Science Education Institute (Included Labor and Materials)

Bid documents can be obtained from the General Services Unit (GSU), Finance and Administrative Division (FAD), Room 318, Science Education Institute, 3rd Floor PTRI Building, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM starting **16 August 2002**. Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements on sealed envelopes with bidder's signature across the envelope cover is not later than **23 August 2002** from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A pre-bid conference shall be conducted on **29 August 2002**, 10:00 AM, at the SEI Conference Room, 3rd Floor PTRI Building, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Sealed bid proposals shall be received by the SEI-BAC on **06 September 2002** until 10:00 AM at the SEI Conference Room after which the bid proposals shall be publicly opened in the presence of the attending bidders.

The SEI reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or part thereof, to waive any defect contained therein and to accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ESTER B. OGENA**
Director

(PDI--Aug. 10, 11 & 12, 2002)

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INQUIRER
RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Feet facts

Contrary to common notion, flat feet can be perfectly normal and healthy. In fact people with well-aligned flat feet can endure longer periods on their feet than those with higher arches because the weight on flat feet is distributed over a larger area. Question: Why is standing in one spot more tiring than walking? The reason for this is that in standing there is a constant demand on the same muscles. In walking or running, however, your weight is more equitably distributed among the 20 muscles in each of your feet and the 13 muscles in each leg above the feet. By the way, the soles of your feet contain more sweat glands and more pressure-sensitive nerve endings per square inch than any other part of your body. Also, the skin on the soles is thicker than the skin anywhere else on your body.

Not-So-Famous-First. The world's first popularly marketed sneaker was Keds, introduced by the US Rubber company in 1917. The name suggested "kids" and rhymed with *ped*, the Latin root word for "foot." Those first sneakers were neither all white, nor white soles with black canvas; rather, the soles were black and the canvas was a conservative chestnut brown, because at the time that was the popular color for American men's leather shoes.

WORD WATCH

Traffic (traf ik) : from the Italian *trafficare*, "to trade" or "to bring."

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Luzon**

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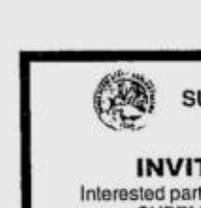

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Baguio City
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Mr. Victor Navarro
Tonga City News Agency #3 Lt. Province Alley,
2nd Floor Mahatma Lovehood Center Baguio City
Tel. Nos. (074) 443-4533-443-3175-443-4365
Mr. Ray Eleizer
Cura & Nena Agency #38 Magnolia Alley,
Mahatma Lovehood Center
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 442-8178
Mr. Jayvince Cesario
J & R Agency
Pasanglusi Upper Victoria Street
(corning Victoria Supermart) Baguio City
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Batangas City
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Faustino-Hoge Talong-hop Market, Bulacan
Telefax (044) 653 1214 Sun/Cell 141-287284
Mr. Rodolfo D. Gregorio
253 Rizal Tabacan Baliwag, Bulacan
Tel. Fax (044) 766-1260
Office Care Communications
Baliwag Shopping Center 2nd Floor (SHO Building
Banawe Str. Pulilan-Baliwag Bulacan
Cabanatuan City
Mr. Noel Laquilo
#7 Sparkle Mall Street Hope Subdivision
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. Nos. (044) 463-0823 E-mail: rucap@mozcom.com
City Supermart
Bonifacio Street Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463 1149
Mr. Hayward Pabic
#537 Zunga Street Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-2022

Nueva Vizcaya
Himmler John L. Manzano
Nueva Vizcaya Travel & Tours
Poblacion North Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax No. (078) 321-7172
Pangasinan
Mr. Noel Cabrera
Lot 4 Block 20 Phase II
Corner Sr. Peter and St. Jude Streets
St. Jude Village San Fernando Pampanga
Tel. Nos. (045) 963 3718-(0919) 505 6249
Global Building Dolores Hornado
MacArthur Highway, Dolores San Fernando Pampanga
Tel. No. (045) 961-2787 e-mail: sherburn@pamp.pworld.net.ph
Pangasinan
Mr. Wai Chua
JVC Cargo Forwarders Co. Ltd.
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Tel. No. (075) 522-0605/522-6050
Mr. Mario Nepomuceno
Marigold Bookstore
AB Fernandez Avenue, Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tel. Nos. (075) 522 2328 Fax No. (075) 522-0079
Mr. Ireneo Ng Romero
Romero's Trading
Rizal Street, Poblacion Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Tel. No. (075) 523-5304/523-5872
Puerto Princesa
Ms. Angelita Leonor
Leonor's Merchandising
E. Ravenna Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. (048) 434 2200-433 2531-433-2561
Mr. Tomas Choy Tan
40 Quezon Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. No. (048) 433 2597 Cellfax (0918) 7332727
Tuguegarao
Mr. Rishmond Pobre
Agatep Newsstand Stall #7 Tuguegarao Central Market
Gomez Street, Tuguegarao, Cagayan
Tel. No. (078) 844 1180/844-0364
E-mail: pobre@dag-pworld.net.ph
Tarlac City
Mr. Erlan C. Dulluesano a.k.a. Batteries
F. Tañedo Street, Tarlac City
Tel. No. (045) 982-0603 Cellfax (0917) 448-0051
Fax No. (045) 982-1735

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Mangyan Puerto Dist. Site Real Laguna
Tel. Nos. (049) 531-2718-(049) 437-3023-(0912) 818-3508
Store: #250 J.P. Rizal Street, Calauan Laguna
Tel. No. (049) 531-4529
Ms. Susan D. Reyes
WSC Data Exchange Co.
55 Paseo de Escudero San Pedro City
Tel. No. (049) 562-4397 Fax No. (049) 562-1444
E-mail: sdr@ej@mac.edu.ph
Batangas
Ms. Alice Pua Uy
Lea's Store Rizal Street, Calamba, Batangas
Tel. No. (049) 562 2270
Ms. Estelline Javier
Fredo Newsand Magazine Agency
#34 Provincial Road, Carmona East, Santiago City
Tel. No. (049) 562 8652-562 3670
E-mail: nepomo@mozcom.com
Legazpi City
Ms. Irene Bermisano
Brgy. 34 Cmi Site Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-1274-480-8090
Cathy P. Bendijo
#4 Pinatio Homesite
Quezon Avenue Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 214-3043/214-3048/820-3748
Lipa City
Ms. Marlene Manaog c/o Ms. Rose Perez
Lifepress Bookstore Plaza Building 132 Kasoy St.
near Lipa Bank - (0917) Lipa City
Tel. No. (043) 756/756-1330
E-mail: rosmaur@sanet.net
Naga City
Mr. Ramon B. Sia
#8 Newspaper and Magazine Headquarters
Ground Floor Supermarket, General Luna Street,
Naga City Tel. No. (054) 473-6111

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
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Roxas City
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Door C, MB Building, Fuentes Drive
Roxas City
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Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053)325-6743/321-2954

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Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
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MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

The family and relatives of the late

LOURDES GERALDEZ-PATAG

as we commemorate the 40th Day
of her peacefully joining our Creator on 2 July 2002,

wish to express their heartfelt gratefulness and
sincerest appreciation to all those who comforted and condoled
with them, offered Masses and prayers,
sent flowers and Mass cards, visited and kept vigil,
attended the funeral rites, and who in countless other ways
helped them in their time of bereavement.

"Whoever believes in Me will LIVE, even though he dies."
John 11:25

ROY LUMANLAN DAVID

Former Mayor - Porac, Pampanga
President - Rural Bank of Porac (Pampanga), Inc.
Chairman - Poultry King Corporation

born on September 8, 1948,
peacefully joined his Creator on August 8, 2002

His family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Wife: Board Member **EDNA De Ausen David**

Children and Grandchildren:
OLGA FRANCES (Fritzie) & RUBEN Dizon, Jr.
- **Ruben Troy Marciano**

DEXTER ALBERT & ANNA PAMELA Laus-David
- **Dexter Adrian**
- **Dominic Albert**

RALPH PRIMO David
GLENN ROY David
TRISTAN LEROY David
MA. CORAZON David

Brothers and Sisters:
AIDA & RUSTICO Coronel
ELOISA & DAN (†) Sarmiento
IRMELO & ZENAIDA David
Sr. ELOISA David, OSB
VICTOR (Doug) & ANITA David
WILFRIDO & JOSEFINA David
ALMA & NAPOLEON Limjoco
JESUS PRIMO & RAQUEL David

His body lies in state at St. Catherine Parish Hall at Porac, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 13, 2002 at St. Catherine Memorial Park after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

(Please omit flowers, donations to ROY L. DAVID Foundation will be appreciated)

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

"Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted."
Matthew 5:4

Our Beloved Nanay

MILAGROS VILLARAZA TORRES

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 3, 2002
at the age of 72.

Her beloved husband **Dr. Bienvenido L. Torres Sr.**; children and spouses **Melinda & Sam, Robert & Cathy, Bobby Jr. & Marinete, Benjie & Bing, Malou, Darie & Raquel, Bonnin & Glenda, Bobet & Mymy**; grandchildren and relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Mines Hotel, Daet, Camarines Norte.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 10, 2002 at Risen Christ Memorial Park, after the 2:00 PM Mass at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Daet, Camarines Norte.

ROMEO E. BARTOLOME

Gubat, Sorsogon and Pasig City

September 8, 1920 - August 7, 2002

His wife **Sayong**; children **Vic, Jun, Johnnie, Ning (†), Jobart, Tere, Nonoy & Grace**, and **Raul**; sisters **Estela** and **Pina**; and their families, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Pinontingan Chapel, Gubat, Sorsogon.

Interment will be announced later.

ANGELA M. FRIAS

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on August 3, 2002 at the age of 69.

Her bereaved family, relatives and friends
request the readers to pray for the
eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 11, 2002,
8:00 AM at the San Carlos City Cemetery.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
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743-6505 • **743-6508** • Fax No.: **712-2782**

102 years

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

LEONOR MOSTER SEMONDAC

8 May 1927 - 6 August 2002

Died in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 75.

Our loving mother has joined our father, **Dionisio (Jhonny)** in the Lord's kingdom.

We, her children **Geline & Ernan Lopez, Alex & Edna Rodriguez, Marilou & Efren Dimaculangan, Lorna & Teddy Mercado, Jojo, Maritess & William Templo, Manny & Lumen Magaling**, and **Del & Peter Tan**; grandchildren, and other relatives, will forever be nourished by her loving guidance and steadfast concern.

Her mortal remains lie in state at the Resurrection Chapel of San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City.

Interment will be on **Sunday, August 11, 2002, at the Lipa Floral Garden, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the San Sebastian Cathedral.**

Lord, lift me up and let me stand
By faith in heaven's stable land
A higher plane that I have found
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground
— Refrain from a gospel song

LYDIA FORMILLEZA FETALINO

Wife, Mother, Teacher

November 18, 1932 — August 7, 2002

Go, Mama! Go where your Lord
Summons you to plant your feet
On higher ground where you may for eternity live
We will miss you sing your favorite gospel song
Just as we missed you when you circled half the world
To teach half-starved, half-naked kids
In a land far from your home
But in our hearts and in those of the countless souls
Whose minds by your teaching you helped shape
There you shall rest, a mother, a teacher, and dear friend
And to Papa's, dear wife and only beloved.

- Papa, Dennis, Jena, Toto

Mama's remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Church in New Manila, Quezon City. Memorial service will be held Sunday, August 11, at 8:30 p.m. Interment will be announced later.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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899-4425; 897-2535
897-8425 (Telefax)
CUBAO : **912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)**
MAKATI : **892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370**
KALAW : **528-0213, 527-3342**
MEGAMALL : **635-0219, 635-0220**

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
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1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu.
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. Tels. 231-0721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City. Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
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Tels. 740-2683, 781-3705, 781-3688, 413-9400, 715-5594
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#42 Upper Kasanyan, Olongapo City
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Pasay Road, Makati City. Tel. 894-6832 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
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Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila.
Tels. 2812963, 2813034, 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City.
Tels. (045) 888-2959, (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City, Tels. 646-[illegible]

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City. Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila. Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas. Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
885 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City. Tels. 890-3556; 899-6191
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Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

BUSINESS

DTI wants pre-need firms to give more to trust funds

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is seeking an increase in the minimum amount of premiums a pre-need company must contribute to its trust fund to protect its planholders.

In a presentation before the House subcommittee on securities and capital markets, Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal said the Philippines' minimum trust fund contribution requirement was way below international standards.

"In the United States, for example, regulations on memorial plans generally require that 85 percent of the amount collected from planholders be paid into trust funds, level over each year of the pay-in period. By way of contrast, in the Philippines, the required allocations are 5 percent of the first year, 10 percent of the second, then 70 percent during the last three years," Cristobal reported.

In addition, according to Cristobal, the trade department believes that affiliates of pre-need companies should not be allowed to act as trustees.

"Clearly, such affiliation makes the trustor-trustee relationship a fiction," Cristobal said.

He also urged lawmakers to take into consideration the solvency of pre-need companies.

"Although much attention has been paid in the press to the issue of trust fund deficiencies, the issue of overall solvency of a pre-need company is actually the more important one because a company must make up for any shortfall in the trust fund," Cristobal stressed.

Automatic Center moves to regain top market slot

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AUTOMATIC Center is aiming to regain its premier position in both appliances and furniture with an aggressive five-year expansion strategy to build bigger stand-alone stores and provide more customer-friendly services.

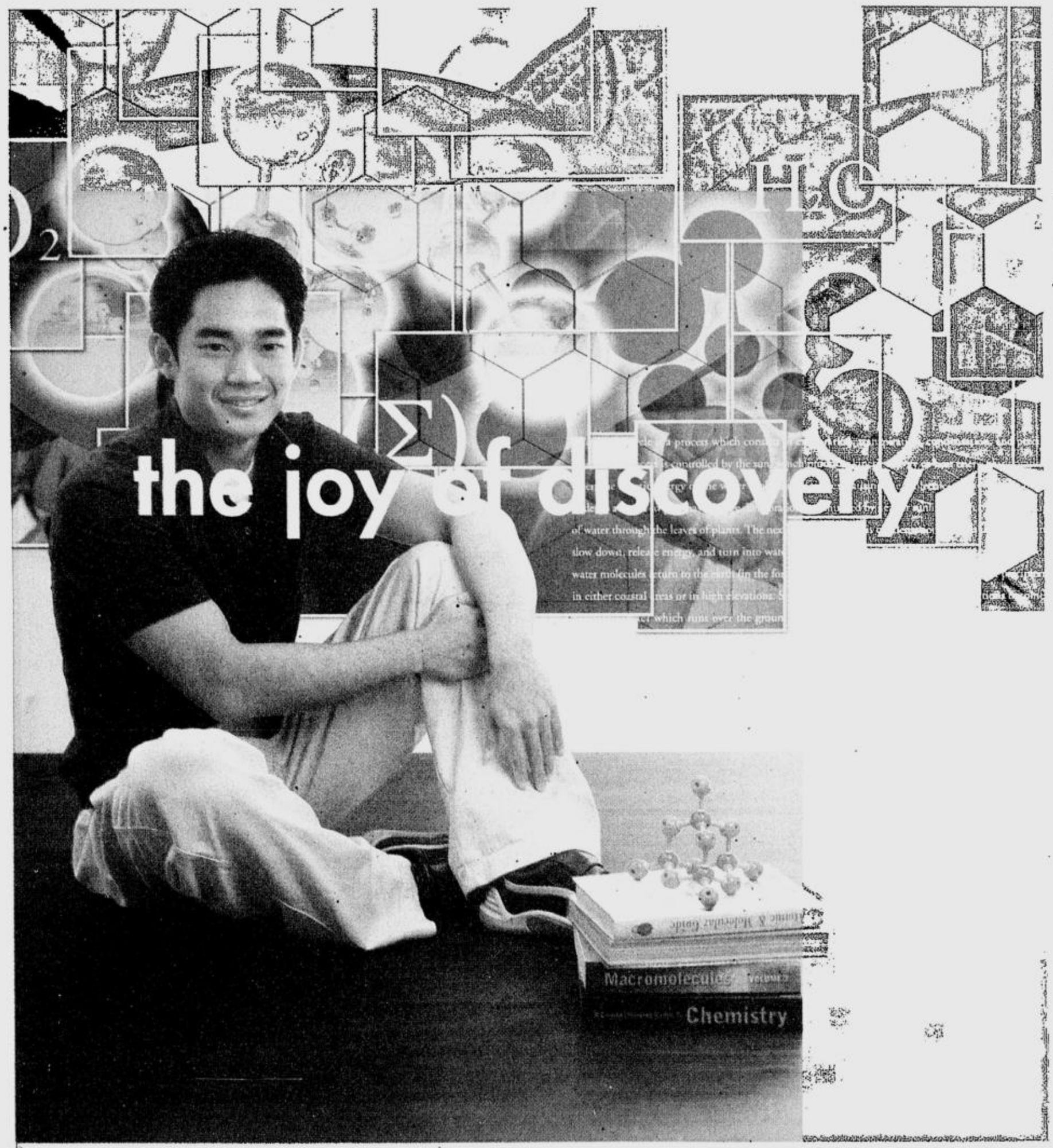
Automatic Center president Samie Lim said the store's management team had been overhauled to steer the company to its old glory.

"We're confident we can jump to No. 1 from No. 3 in appliances and No. 2 in furniture (Blim's) in five years," Lim said.

The current leader in both market segments is the SM group of companies.

Lim said while Automatic Center would refurbish its current store network, he was also seeking to forge deals with owners of buildings in strategic places.

"We're looking for owners who want to double their money every five years in exchange for a 20-year contract for their buildings."



GMA eco teacher gets second term as MB member

FOR giving President Macapagal-Arroyo the highest grade of "A" back when she was a student in his economics class, Vicente Valdepeñas has been given another six-year term as a member of the policy-making Monetary Board of the central bank.

Valdepeñas was first appointed to the Monetary Board by former President Fidel Ramos. His term ended on July 31.

An economist, Valdepeñas taught economics at the Ateneo de Manila University, where he was chair of the Department of Economics and University Senate.

Valdepeñas was a former director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

In a news conference at the central bank in December, the President gave a special mention to Valdepeñas.

"I see Mr. Valdepeñas, my former professor in economics, nodding. He gave me an 'A' in his class," Ms Macapagal said.

Valdepeñas' colleague in the BSP board, Teodoro Montecillo, whose term expired on Aug. 5, was not as fortunate.

Montecillo, an expert on bank rehabilitation, was hired by the central bank as one of its consultants after no word on a possible reappointment came.

WG&A to acquire 2 ships with ₱1-B loan from Citibank

WILLIAM, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc., the country's largest shipping firm, is set to borrow some P1 billion from a consortium of banks led by Citibank NA to purchase two additional ships as part of its fleet expansion.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, WG&A chief finance officer Susan Valdez said the company's board authorized the acquisition of two new ships from Osaka-based Memon Talyo Ferry Co. Ltd. for $16 million.

The new ships will bring WG&A's fleet to 25 vessels operating nationwide.

WG&A will soon be a 92-percent subsidiary of Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. after the Aboitiz family finalized a deal to buy out the 61-percent combined stake held by the Chiongbian and Gothong families.

The buyout of the 918 million combined shares held by the two other key shareholders will raise the stake held by the Aboitiz family from 31 percent and make it the single dominant shareholder.

Analysts said the planned purchase of new vehicles meant that WG&A's expansion would continue under the Aboitiz regime.

SC ruling seen lifting Bayantel wireless business

A RECENT Supreme Court decision upholding Bayan Telecommunications Inc.'s cellular license is seen giving its business a much needed boost, as well as give it more leverage in its debt restructuring negotiations with its creditors.

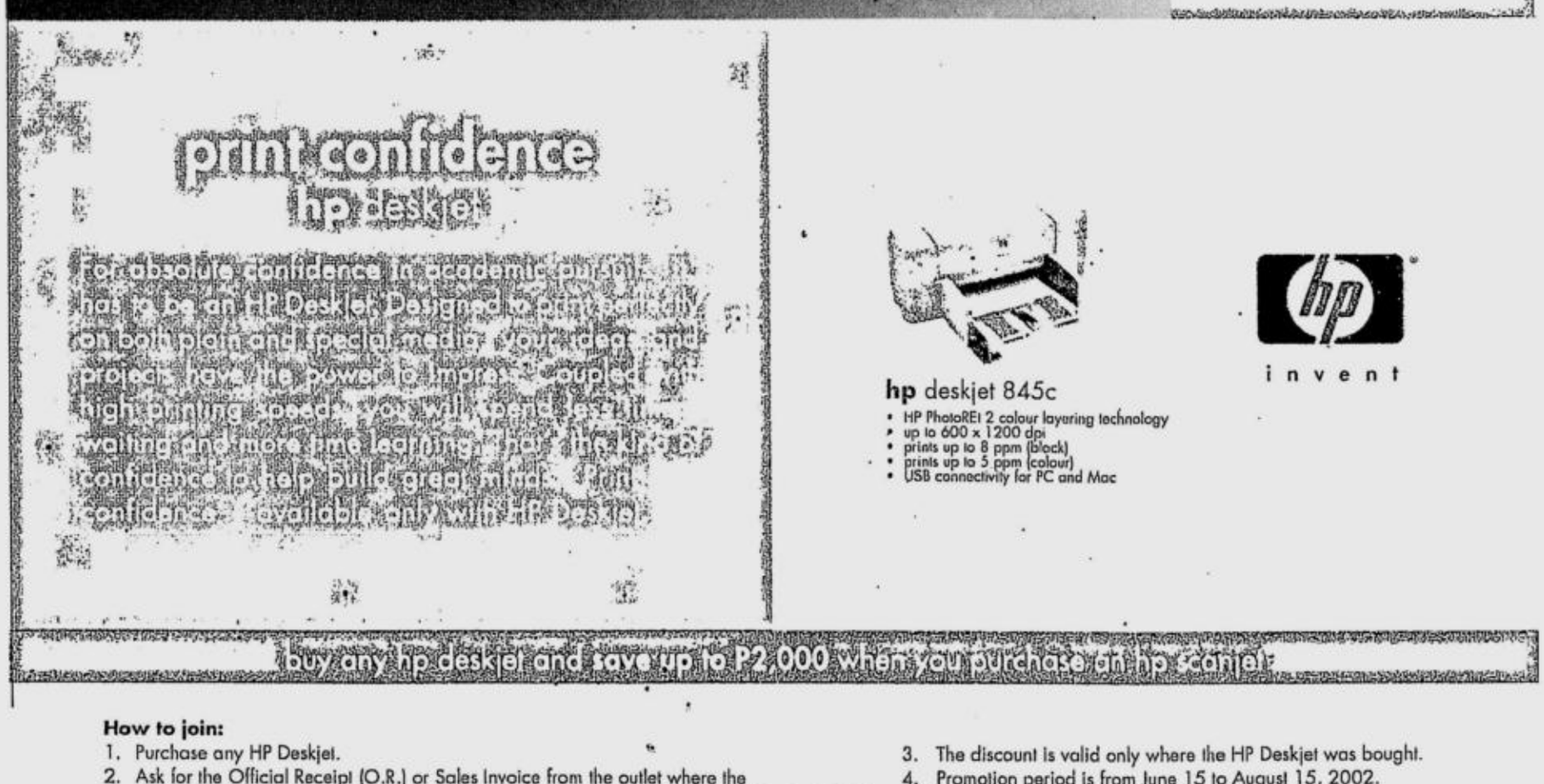
In an interview yesterday, Bayantel chief financial officer Gary Olivar said the high court's ruling removed obstacles blocking its entry into mobile communication.

"This decision will give us an additional opportunity to improve our business. With this, we are in a much better position to pursue cellular, although data and Internet will still be our focus," he told the INQUIRER.

He said in the financial plans that the company submitted to its creditors, it excluded proposals to go into the wireless communication business, as the Supreme Court had yet to rule on a case filed by Bayantel's former partner, Express Telecommunications Co. Inc.

Two years ago, Extelcom filed a case against Bayantel, one of its major shareholders, contesting the National Telecommunications Commission's decision to grant Bayantel a permit to operate a cellular system.

Abigail L. Ho



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SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2002 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Associate Editor Edmund L. Sicam

MEL Gibson stars in the "the creepiest, scariest movie to come out of Hollywood since 'The Others.'"

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'Signs' is a subtle frightfest

By David Germain

NEW YORK—Atmosphere goes a long way in an M. Night Shyamalan film, even so far as to elevate a rather nebulous scenario—really more a situation than a story—into a rip-roaring yarn.

Writer-director Shyamalan's "Signs" is the creepiest, scariest movie to come out of Hollywood at least since last summer's ghost tale "The Others," maybe even since Shyamalan's own "The Sixth Sense" three years ago.

Farmer

Mel Gibson delivers one of his best performances, playing a recently widowed farmer and ex-man of the cloth dealing with crop circles carved in his corn fields that portend the arrival of visitors from the skies.

Gibson gets excellent support from Joaquin Phoenix, Cherry Jones and child actors Rory Culkin and Abigail Breslin. Shyamalan—who cast himself in tiny roles in "The Sixth Sense" and its follow-up, "Unbreakable"—takes on a somewhat larger part in "Signs" and displays real dramatic chops.

But the real star is the muted sense of foreboding Shyamalan musters from the start, a subtle frightfest which he maintains and gradually intensifies as "Signs" unfolds in a cloistered manner mainly within the confines of a farmhouse far from the nearest neighbor.

The hardest form of horror to create is the psychological kind, where the filmmaker implies terror and imminent menace while revealing only bits and pieces on-screen, a glimpse of a limb or a shadowy figure, a scratch at the door or a bang on the other side of a wall.

Worthy successor

Shyamalan continues to stake his claim as a worthy successor to Alfred Hitchcock, crafting nail-biting suspense without resorting to the bombast of explosions, glitzy computer effects or other trappings of modern Hollywood. And like Hitchcock, Shyamalan infuses "Signs" with a healthy dose of droll, dark humor.

Even James Newton Howard's music is reminiscent of the ominous Hitchcock scores written by Bernard Herrmann.

Gibson plays Graham Hess, a Pennsylvania farmer who recently hung up his minister's collar after his faith in God was shaken by his wife's death in a car accident.

Graham now goes through the motions, still playing dutiful father to his children (Culkin and Breslin) but quietly, bitterly rejecting his past role as a spiritual counselor for local townsfolk.

His spiritual limbo is mirrored by the psychological malaise of his brother, Merrill (Phoenix), a minor-league baseball washout

SIGNS/ p. C2

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ENTERTAINMENT

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In search for a pet, Lilo adopts what she thinks is a dog and names him Stitch to the horror of her sister Nani. Realizing that Lilo and Nani provide a perfect safety shield against alien bounty hunters, Stitch welcomes the adoption and "sticks like glue" to his new family.

Stitch, however, proceeds to behave badly and create chaos while proving to be perhaps the least affectionate pet on the planet. Still, Lilo takes him under her wing and encourages him to be a model citizen like her hero Elvis Presley.

In the end, Lilo's unwavering faith in "Ohana" the Hawaiian tradition of family, unlocks Stitch's heart and gives him the one thing he was designed to have—the ability to love.

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TITLE	KEYWORDS
SUSPICIOUS MINDS	MIND
BURNING LOVE	BURNING
HE MELE NO LILO	HELEMELE
HAWAIIAN ROLLER COASTER RIDE	RCOASTER
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YEOH. Has made it a point to portray strong women in her 15-year film career.

There's more to Michelle Yeoh than flying kicks and flaming fists

By Nestor U. Torre

TO MANY moviegoers, Michelle Yeoh is "just" a female martial arts star who's best remembered for her florid fighting flourishes in a number of Chinese movies, and for successfully crossing over to international cinema, in the James Bond film, "Tomorrow Never Dies," and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

Feminist movie

However, a growing number of people are belatedly discovering that there's much more to Michelle Yeoh than flying kicks and flaming fists. The change in perception began with "Crouching Tiger...," which viewers saw as a feminist movie because, going against traditional martial-arts practice, it had three dynamic rather than merely decorative female protagonists.

Their strength contradicted China's patriarchal culture, which values girls less than boys. Ang Lee, the director of "Crouching Tiger...," unequivocally declares, "In Asia, Michelle Yeoh has become an icon for the strong-willed woman."

Strong women

Yeoh has in fact made it a point to portray strong women in her 15-year career in Asian martial-arts films. Since 1984, she has played a policewoman, a soldier of fortune, a stuntwoman, a superhero—all assertive women who have gone a long way in refuting the traditional screen stereotype of Asian women as weak, simpering and chronically dependent on men.

The Malaysia-born star had a hard time making her point in the macho film culture of Chinese movies. To gain her co-workers' respect, Yeoh insisted on doing her own stunts, despite the fact that some of them were dangerous.

As a result, she sustained many injuries in the course of her career—but she did prove her point. Little by little, the image of women in Chinese movies began to change for the better.

Gratified

Yeoh is gratified at this development, because it has enabled the movies to "catch up with reality." She explains that, in real life these days, women are more independent and self-actualizing, so it's high time that the movies show things as they really are!

Her main goal now is to uphold the dynamism of women without having to stress the martial arts element quite so much. Since most producers consider this a risky proposition, Yeoh has put up her own film company, Mythical Films, to greenlight her own projects.

First production

Her first production, "The Touch," is a suspense-adventure about acrobats in China. This is a promising project because it taps into the vital role that acrobatics have played in Chinese life.

The film is intended for international release, and it should do well globally because Chinese acrobats are the best in the world, and their feats of strength and pliability are marvelous to behold.

As a star, Michelle Yeoh has had an inspiring career. As producer, she should do even better!

Bob Dylan makes his long-awaited return to Newport, Rhode Island folk festival

By Brian Carovillano

NEWPORT, Rhode Island—This time, Bob Dylan knew better than to walk onstage at the Newport Folk Festival with an electric guitar.

The legendary singer-songwriter last played Newport in July 1965, when he famously "plugged in" for the first time, smashing barriers between folk and rock, and was booed by folk-music purists.

Applause

Thirty-seven years later, Dylan returned to Newport, and fans had nothing but applause as he walked onstage around 5:30 p.m. Saturday, slung an acoustic guitar over his shoulder and, with Al Gore standing just offstage, led his four-piece backing band into an acoustic version of "Roving Gambler."

These days, the 61-year-old Dylan is more Nashville than Greenwich Village. He wore a white cowboy hat and a black vest and managed a shuffling two-step during a few songs.

Next came countrified takes on "The Times They Are A-Changin'," "Desolation Row," and "Mama, You've Been On My Mind," before the band traded their acoustic instruments for electric ones.

His band, which included Tony Garnier on bass, Charlie Sexton and Larry Campbell on guitars and George Ricelli on drums, matched Dylan in Hank Williams-style black.

90-minute set

They switched between electric and acoustic several times during a 90-minute set that included 15 songs. Highlights included a hard-rocking version of "Down in the Flood," a song dating to Dylan's days with The Band, and an acoustic rendition of "You Ain't Goin' Nowhere."

DYLAN. Now more Nashville than Greenwich Village.

Jim Sullivan of Falmouth, Massachusetts, who was just 7 the last time Dylan played Newport, brought his own 14-year-old son, Ben, to witness a bit of history Saturday. Both wore hats and T-shirts from Dylan's current tour. Like his father, Ben is a big fan, and belongs to an Internet chat group devoted entirely to Dylan.

"I was a Dylan fan all by myself for my whole life," Jim Sullivan said. "Then he was born, and I made sure he was a Dylan fan. Now I have someone to go to shows with."

After a 10-minute break, the band returned for a four-song encore that began with "Not Fade Away," and "Like a Rolling Stone," a song that hit the airwaves just days before Dylan's last appearance at Newport and would became an anthem of the 1960s. "Blowin' in the Wind," and "All Along the Watchtower," rounded out the encore.

"He's in better form than ever," said Mark Kunkel, a 51-year-old longtime Dylan fan who drove 1,300 miles (2,090 km) from his home in Carrollton, Georgia, in a 1977 Volkswagen microbus to witness Dylan's return to Newport.

Long-awaited return

The 10,000 tickets to Saturday's show at the two-day Apple & Eve Newport Folk Festival sold out faster than in any other year in the festival's history, fueled mainly by Dylan's long-awaited return.

Whether the boos in 1965 were for him or because of the poor sound quality—still a matter of intense debate—Dylan's three-song electric set that year has attained mythic status.

But the times indeed have a-changed.

"I can't think of anything he could do that would make me want to boo him this time," said Jack White, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for WPRI-TV in Providence.

White, who was then a 22-year-old college senior, was among the folkies who jeered at Dylan the last time he played Newport. He even stormed off the festival grounds before Dylan was through.

"I've mellowed with age," said White, now 59. "I think you could probably say the same of most of my contemporaries."

Dylan's acerbic, at times sarcastic, protest songs captured the mood of America's increasingly disenfranchised youth during the early years of Vietnam war and the civil-rights struggles.

At 24, however, he was maturing personally and artistically. Earlier in '65, Dylan released "Bringing It All Back Home," an album of both acoustic and electric songs.

Then Dylan and his new sound hit the stage at Newport, the sacred hub of the folk movement.

Biographer

"Newport was definitely the most dramatic place to do it," said Dylan biographer Michael Gray, author of "Song & Dance Man III: The Art of Bob Dylan."

"Everybody knew that he'd gone electric. It was there on the album. But the folk music establishment was hanging on to the notion that he was still one of theirs."

Dylan strode onstage late in the afternoon on Sunday, July 25, 1965, with a Fender electric guitar and the Paul Butterfield Blues Band. They stunned the crowd with a raucous rendition of "Maggie's Farm," followed by "Rolling Stone" and "It Takes a Lot to Laugh, It Takes a Train to Cry." Dylan then came back for an acoustic set with "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue" and "Mister Tambourine Man." *AP*

Focus on soap operas on TV

By Leia Torre

THE TV soap opera has been around almost as long as television itself. Millions of televiewers around the world have spent a lot of time following the dramatic lives of soap-opera characters. They laugh, cry, celebrate, and mourn along with the characters whose travails they watch.

Same timeslot

Today, TV channels pit their soaps against each other, placing their shows in the same timeslot as those of their opponents'.

The scripts try to outdo each other in their number of deaths, betrayals, weird twists, illogical plotlines, and florid *kontrabidas*. But quantity is definitely *not* quality!

Here are some viewers' suggestions on how to make TV soaps better and more appealing:

More original

"They should make their plots more original—baby-switching, for example, is so common: Rich baby goes to poor family, and vice versa. Martyr roles are also a dime a dozen. They should portray the lives of other types of people: college students, athletes, artists, young professionals.

"The element of comedy is also very noticeably missing. So is reinforcement of positive values. Soaps thrive on misfortune and tragedy, which is depressing. It makes for a very melodramatic story.

"They also present an inaccurate picture of our society, because only the woes of the very rich or the very poor are portrayed. The events that take place are exaggerated—no one is *that* unfortunate in real life!

"The characters often act like uncivilized, barbaric people, killing each other left and right. Except, of course, for the poor, helpless, "martyr" heroine. The rich are also stereotyped—they're almost always greedy, bitchy, and evil. *Nakakainis na minsan.*

"I suggest that the writers take their cue from Japanese, Chinese, and Korean soap operas. They're more reasonable and believable, with storylines that are original and elegant. And why don't they try producing a historical drama or two? They might be surprised by how many people are ready to appreciate quality TV."—*Leslie Estreller, 23.*

Interchangeable

"The biggest problem is that all soap operas are interchangeable after a while. A show may get off to a different, promising start, but is subsequently ruined by its writers' propensity for pouring as much adversity, scandal, and double-crossing schemes as they can into the story. The audience is then left with the task of wading through 12 different offshoots of storylines that revolve around the original one, which of course cannot be resolved until the other dozen or so have been!

"Although I'm not an avid viewer of soaps, I have not been able to avoid watching them, as they are so (in)conveniently placed in the primetime slots. What a commentary on our society!

"There are a lot of things that could be done to improve these soap operas, but the most important are: (1) make the story catchy, but simple—there needn't be murders and betrayals left and right in order for a story to be deemed interesting. And (2) get actors who can really act—in fact, I would prefer watching unknowns who can deliver to big-name stars who simply rely on their star status.

"Also, cut down on the number of shows. They all seem to merge into one big mess after one has watched four or five shows with the same general plotline. *Nakakabuwang tuloy alalahanin kung sino at ano na ang nangyayari sa kung aling* show!"—*Raymond Chavez, 25.*

Formula

Most of the soap operas bank on the "who's in and who's hot" formula. The producers don't even try to focus on getting quality actors. Instead, they take advantage of the hottest love teams and the most unrealistic plots. The usual rich boy meets poor girl and vice-versa story that is so overused is forever seen on those timeslots that are ironically called 'primetime.'

"Every night, we are exposed to distorted interpretations of martyrdom, love, and family. And worst of all, the source of almost all the conflicts on these shows is money—the proverbial root of all evil.

"Is that the only thing we can aim for? To be so darn rich that we'll be able to buy the world? In addition, the antagonists are depicted as ruthless, heartless, brutish individuals. There are no mitigating factors whatsoever. In fact, the more evil they get, the more they attract the audience.

"So, how can soap operas be improved? First, I implore the producers to cut down on the number of shows, and focus on the less hysterical soaps. Imagine, after a day's work, you switch on your TV set, only to be subjected to shallow, emotional, tear-jerking scenes? The effect may be cathartic, but don't we get enough of such moments at work?

"My next suggestion: show the lighter side of life. Shows don't always have to be dramatic to be appreciated. Fresh ideas are always welcomed by the audience.

"Finally, I think conflicts should not be exaggerated. Let's keep things real! That way, more people will be able to relate to the characters on the screen. Soap operas would then be able to help viewers look at their own lives, find the source of their problems, and do something about them."—*Tina Rago, 19.*

Star-crossed lovers

"To the producers and writers: create stories that do not revolve around a pair of star-crossed lovers. I'm not saying *na tanggalin na* totally *yung* love story angle, just don't make it the main plot. I'm sure viewers will find that a pleasant change from weepy heroines and stoic heroes.

"From the start, outline the whole story and stick to it. Rely on unique story ideas in order to hold viewers' interest. Produce many *short* soap operas, not those overlong drama series that seem like several unrelated novels thrown together. The audience will definitely thank you for it."—*Karen Sy, 17.*

'Tanging Yaman' launches second miniseries

AN ACCLAIMED cast leads the second miniseries in ABS-CBN's uplifting anthology "Tanging Yaman, the Series." Starting today right after "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan," Cherrie Pie Picache, Jestoni Alarcon, Matet de Leon, Sylvia Sanchez and Carlo Aquino will lead a strong cast in the story of a "babymaker" and her search for redemption and acceptance in the face of death.

Seemingly perfect life

In the heartbreaking installment, "Sa Kandungan Mo, Inay," Cherrie Pie plays Louie, a woman who, when the story opens, has a seemingly perfect life. She is happily married to Arnel (Jestoni Alarcon), an engineer currently working in Saudi Arabia, who is devoted to her.

She has a wonderful relationship with her 17-year-old daughter Angel (Aiza Marquez) and her 10-year-old son Ariel (Bryan Homecillo). And she and her best friend Bel (Sylvia Sanchez) run a successful video/ photography shop.

Painful decision

Everything comes to an end when, during a routine visit to the doctor, Louie finds out that she is suffering from cancer of the uterus, and has only a few months to live. Staring death in the eye, Louie comes to a painful decision to finally come to terms with her shocking past—a past that was unknown to her current family.

Now she needs to find the spiritual strength to reach out to both her current family and three young people in pain—Danny (Spencer Reyes), Jenny (Matet de Leon) and Lito (Carlo Aquino)—before she meets her Maker.

PICACHE. Painful decision.

'Signs' is a subtle frightfest

From p. C1

whose home run records are offset by his records for striking out.

Foreshadowing

"It felt wrong not to swing," Merrill confesses, a wry bit of foreshadowing that helps set up the film's climax and Shyamalan's intriguing exploration of fate, divine intervention and the interconnectedness of seemingly random circumstances.

Jones is a sympathetic presence as a police officer who's witness to tragic moments that befall the Hess family. Shyamalan plays a neighbor who's the catalyst for Graham's fall from grace and potential resurrection.

Graham's crisis of faith is a fairly black-and-white affair, without a great deal of nuance.

"SIGNS." There's much more to the film than those mystifying circles.

Shyamalan essentially knocks this decent man down, then hurls a fire-and-brimstone Armageddon scenario at him in the guise of a sci-fi invasion that either will restore his belief or cost him all that he holds dear.

As in "The Sixth Sense" and "Unbreakable," Shyamalan ladles on religious imagery in "Signs." The notion of the purgative powers of water is especially prevalent.

While the celestial intruders ostensibly are beings from another planet, they really are old-fashioned biblical demons sent to rekindle Graham's lost conviction that goodness must prevail.

The film's closing image, while predictable, is a quietly stirring affirmation that along with life's cruelties comes hope of better things.

"Signs," released by Disney's Touchstone Pictures, is rated PG-13 for some frightening moments. Running time: 105 minutes. Three stars out of four. *AP*

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Allan K, Heart Evangelista as replacements

By Edmund L. Sicam

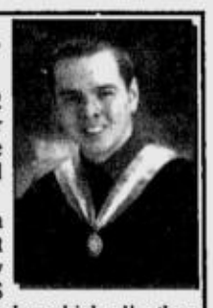
EVANGELISTA. A chance to shine.

IT's hard to replace a firmly established personality, so when Allan K was asked to suit up for "The Weakest Link," he thought long and hard before accepting the offer. After all, it's no easy task following in the footsteps of Edu Manzano, who decided not to renew his contract with Viva TV.

Edu did a good job of projecting the game show host as a villain, taunting the contestants with his insulting one-liners. Allan K has made a name as a comedian on "Eat Bulaga" and various live shows, so we were surprised

ALLAN/ p. C4

RAFAEL JOSE B. ZAMORA



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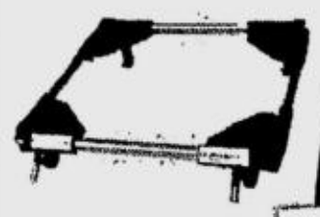

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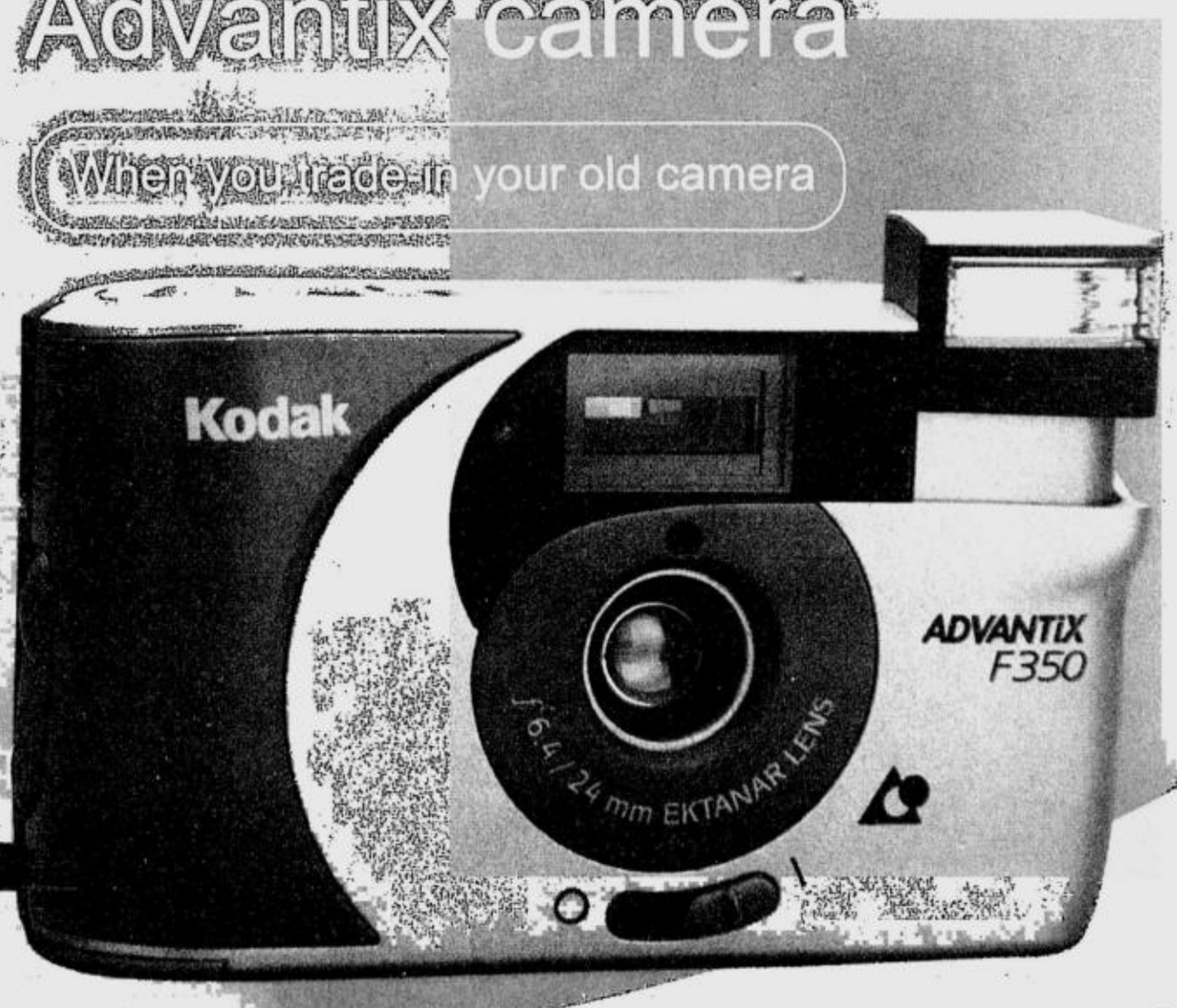

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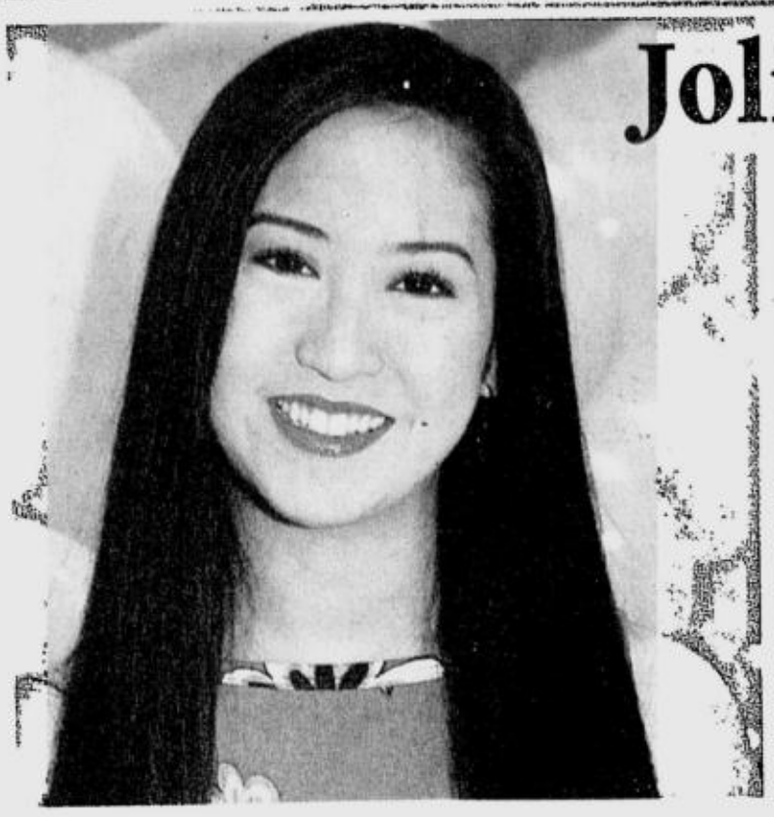
Jolina Magdangal spreads her wings



MAGDANGAL. "Free as a bird."

By Jocelyn Valle

"I'M AS free as a bird," exclaims Jolina Magdangal, erstwhile ABS-CBN exclusive star (she was launched on "Ang TV" 12 years ago), who's recently gone freelance. She's due to lose three regular shows (she's definitely out of "Asap" and she's had her last taping day for "Ariba, Ariba," but she's unsure of her fate on "Cover Story"), but the petite singer-actress-fashionista is not bothered.

Decision

She and her parents stand firm on their decision. *"Pwede lumingon, pero hindi na pwedeng bumalik,"* she says with finality.

After all, she's raring to spread her wings. Her fans need not worry, because Jolina recently inked a deal with GMA-7 to do two seasons (26 episodes) of its Sunday-afternoon telenovela, "Kahit Kailan."

She's also a host of a public-affairs program on the President's activities. And after returning from a two-week tour in the US (she left on Aug. 1), she will be working on a movie with Dolphy, under the comedy king's film outfit, and recording a new album for Star Records.

Meanwhile, Jolina's Fashion Gallery continues to expand, recently opening a branch in SM Fairview—with a snack bar named Chubachicha, to boot.

(Know why Jolina won't run out of cash? She reveals that she keeps bills in her cabinet, and whenever she gets one to spend for something, she kisses it and tells it to come back to her. *"Swerte daw 'yun,"* she winks.)

Humorous situations

Last Sunday, Jolina was officially introduced on "Kahit Kailan" as Frankie, a rich youngster who runs away from home and meets Victor (James Blanco), who has also left his family. Together, they encounter many problems, but they always turn them into humorous and *kilig* situations.

"Very Jolina" is how the young star describes those scenes. *"Gusto ko kasi sa simula,* light *lang,"* she explains. "Later on *na lang maging* heavy."

In a way, she says, her part on "Kahit Kailan" showcases her versatility, just like what she did in an episode for Channel 2's "Star Studio," where she sang, danced and did comedy.

While Frankie and Victor's escapades will eat up most of the show's 90 minutes, "Kahit Kailan's" program unit manager, Gigi Santiago, assures the soap's young cast that they will get their fair share of exposure.

The show's focus now is on juvenile romance. That's what viewers prefer, according to a recent survey. "They also want it light," she points out.

Optimistic

Santiago shares that the original cast has been informed of the changes. The response, she reports, has been positive, with the teen stars optimistic they will learn a lot from Jolina.

Jolina, for her part, doesn't believe that she's stepping on some people's toes. *"Ang importante, magtulungan para gumanda ang* show!"

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Allan K . . . From p. C3

REVILLAME. Changed person.

when he was chosen to replace Edu.

Allan K says Viva wanted to offset negative feedback from the audience which is not used to an unfriendly host and a format where each contestant is eliminated by the group until only two remain.

During the first taping day, the comedian was nervous and appeared stiff on camera. However, on succeeding episodes, he lightened up. Watching Allan on TV, we can't get used to the fact that it's no longer Edu asking the questions. Allan has a lot of work ahead of him before he can put his own stamp on the show. We noticed that he is more comfortable adlibbing his lines. However, when he has to say the standard "Weakest Link" lines in English, he doesn't come off well.

Meanwhile, ABS-CBN's Heart Evangelista replaces Jolina Magdangal on "Arriba! Arriba!" starting tonight. As everybody knows, Jolina has moved over to the rival network, where she will appear in a soap and other GMA shows. Heart kept stressing during a recent presscon that she was not Jolina's replacement. She won't be taking over Jolina's character but will play Ai Ai de las Alas' long lost daughter.

We understood her concern because Jolina's been in the business a long time and created her own following, while Heart is relatively new in the business. The newcomer has made her mark on TV and has been given a chance by the network to shine. Her latest assignment was "OK Fine, Whatever" which she had to leave with her transfer to "Arriba! Arriba!

She told us that other stars are being added to the sitcom like John Prats, who's often being linked to her. It was her way of saying that she's not shouldering the heavy task of carrying on Jolina's task all by her lonesome. In fact, she was worried about how the loss of Jolina will affect the ratings of "Arriba!"

Unlike other actresses, Heart doesn't need to work because she belongs to a well-to-do family. But the 17-year-old girl really wants to be part of show business. Her dad was initially opposed to the idea and, just to quiet her down, he told her that if she passed the auditions at ABS-CBN, she could join show biz, but if she failed, she should forget about it. Heart surprised her dad by passing her auditions with flying colors so he had no choice but to allow her daughter to join ABS-CBN.

Willie Revillame is back

Willie Revillame the "bad boy" of noontime television, is back on ABS-CBN after an absence of one year and five months. However, he won't be rejoining "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" where he became famous or infamous depending on whose side you're on, for his naughty antics. Not just yet.

His comeback vehicle is "Willingly Yours," premiering today at 5:30 p.m., just before Senator Noli de Castro's "Magandang Gabi Bayan."

"Willingly Yours" is the network's answer to GMA's "Wish Ko Lang," the show that grants the wishes of ordinary folk, whether it be money to finance a wedding, or dining with their favorite star. According to Willie, his show will be a different kind of public service program. He calls it "charity with humor." So after the heart-rending scenes when tears are shed, there will be light moments.

In one segment, Willie spoofs the late Helen Vela's (his mother-in-law) advice program by using her theme song while he pretends to play the piano.

Willie says he is a changed man. He even apologized to members of the press whom he offended with his haughty attitude. Although some writers were skeptical about the "new" Willie, the comedian assured them that this was no *"ningas-cogon"* thing. He agreed that only the future will tell if he has really changed.

Someone asked her about his ex-partner of seven years, Cheryl Cosim, who is now one of the hosts of "Magandang Umaga, Bayan." He said Cheryl supported him when things went bad after leaving "MTB," but despite her concern for him, Willie took her for granted something that he now regrets.

He says he has no illusions about getting back with her. He calls her "wife material" but it's going to take a lot of work to rekindle their old relationship.

OUR BRIEF HISTORY.

The Hanes brand was born in the Southeastern United States, in the state of North Carolina. North Carolina is still the corporate home of Hanes today-- the brand has grown to be the largest apparel brand in the world. From humble beginnings as a family-owned business to a key part of a $20 billion global company, Sara Lee Corporation, the Hanes brand has an eventful history.

☆**1800's** P.H. Hanes Tobacco Company founded by Hanes brothers, J. Wesley and Pleasant. ☆**1900** Tobacco company sold to R.J. Reynolds for $175,000. ☆**1901** Brothers Pleasant & J. Wesley Hanes form P.H Hanes Knitting Company and Shamrock Mills (men's hosiery) and start manufacturing men's underwear. ☆**1910** Shamrock Mills changes its name to Hanes Hosiery Mill Co. and switches to manufacturing women's hosiery. ☆**1920** Hanes Hosiery exits the men's hosiery business to focus on the growing women's business. ☆**1920** P.H. Hanes expands into undershirts, briefs, sleepwear, and knitted shorts. ☆**1930** Both companies remain prosperous during the Great Depression. ☆**1940** World War II affects both companies, as Hanes Hosiery must curtail women's hosiery production due to the war's need for nylon. P.H. Hanes stays busy meeting the needs of U.S. servicemen for underwear. ☆**1950** Hanes Hosiery invents seamless hosiery manufacturing and backseams are a thing of the past (until they come back in the 70's as a fashion statement). ☆**1965** Hanes companies merge to form Hanes Corporation, believed to be the only merger of two companies bearing the same family name. Company is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. ☆**1972** L'eggs, the most successful hosiery brand ever, is "hatched" at Hanes and then spun off as its own company. ☆**1979** Hanes Corporation, including L'eggs, is acquired by Consolidated Foods Corporation, better known by its current name, Sara Lee Corporation. The hosiery and knit products businesses are once again separated. ☆**1986** Hanes introduces the Hanes HerWay brand of women's apparel, starting with women's panties and expanding to other categories. Hanes HerWay quickly becomes a hundred million-dollar brand by itself. ☆**1989** Hanes signs an up-and-coming, young basketball player out of the University of North Carolina who has recently moved to Chicago: Michael Jordan. ☆**1992** Hanes' new logo and advertising campaign are introduced, letting consumers know that we "Just Can't Wait 'Til We Get Our Hanes On You." ☆**1994** Hanes sponsors the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway. Responding to a lack of laundering facilities, Hanes airlifts underwear to the international press in the small village of Lillehammer. ☆**1996** Hanes sponsors the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia and the 1996 U.S. Olympic Team. As part of the sponsorship, Hanes raises almost $1million for underprivileged children in Atlanta and for UNICEF by auctioning limited edition t-shirts for 517 days. The final T-shirt is auctioned for more than $42,000, the most expensive T-shirt ever. ☆**1997** Hanes brand sales surpass $2 billion worth of high quality, affordable casual clothing for today's everyday lifestyle around the world. ☆**1999** Over 7,000 Special Olympics athletes converge on North Carolina for the 1999 Special Olympics Summer Games. Hanes is there as the highest-level sponsor, providing uniforms for over 35,000 volunteers. Hanes employees volunteer at the track and field venue. ☆**2000** Hanes is the #1 brand of apparel in the world.

Although the brand enjoys a rich 100-year American history, Hanes is by no means a stranger to Filipino consumers. Since the early 1980s, Filipinos have been treated to the high quality and unmatched comfort of Hanes.

AMERICA'S #1 CHOICE!

With literally hundreds of brands to choose from in stores across the country, consumers overwhelmingly chose Hanes as their favorite brand of apparel for the second consecutive year. Hanes took top honors in Men's, Women's, and Intimate Apparel and placed a close third for Children's Apparel, based on the 2001 Top Brands Survey conducted for DSN Retailing Today magazine by Leo J. Shapiro & Associates. Hanes also took top honors for apparel in the 2000 Top Brands Survey.

"Hanes is all about bringing comfort and style to today's busy, budget-conscious families," said Bob Scott, vice president of consumer marketing for Hanes. "The Hanes brand has been an American family favorite for a century, and we are committed to being mom's choice for the next 100 years with new and innovative products."

Hanes also leverages its decade-long relationship with basketball superstar Michael Jordan to advertise new products. The current Hanes television commercial, entitled "Locker Room," features Michael Jordan and the latest styles of Hanes boxers and boxer briefs.

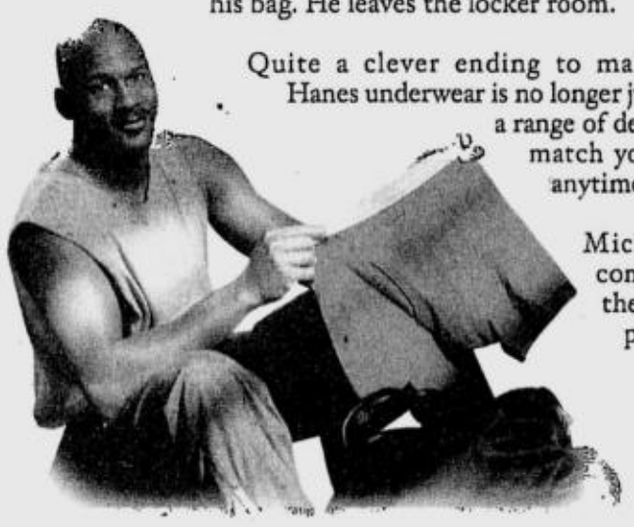
"Hanes is so much more than white briefs," said Scott. "We are really focused on clothing for the entire family from traditional basics like socks and underwear to more updated styles such as fleece anoraks and cotton pique sportshirts."

Sara Lee Branded Apparel is an operating unit of Sara Lee Corporation, a global consumer packaged goods company with more than $17.5 billion in annual revenues. Its leading brands include Hanes, Hanes Her Way, Bali, Just My Size, L'eggs and Playtex.

HIS AIRNESS REVEALED

Michael Jordan, the legend. Michael Jordan, in legendary Hanes underwear. Sounds familiar? Well, it's probably because Michael continues to be the lead endorser for America's #1 apparel brand. In the latest television spot from Hanes, four or five clean-cut guys are standing in the locker room, having a generally good time generating locker-room banter and modeling their underwear. Out of the corner of his eye one of the guys (we'll call him Guy I) spots Michael Jordan who has just walked in and sat on a bench across the room. After nudging his Adonis-like buddies, Guy I makes eye contact with Jordan. Jordan stares at Guy I and then turns his eyes to Guy I's briefs. MJ then pulls a pair of red Hanes Briefs out of his gym bag. Jordan ends with his signature smile.

In the next scene of the commercial, Jordan has returned to the locker room a week later to find his followers now sporting red. However they're too late. Jordan once again pulls a surprise and pulls out a new polka-dotted pair from his bag. He leaves the locker room.



Quite a clever ending to make a very important point. Hanes underwear is no longer just about white briefs. It's about a range of designs, styles and colors that can match your mood and your lifestyle---anytime, anywhere.

Michael Jordan ends his latest commercial by saying, "As long as they're Hanes." We couldn't have put it any better.

THERE'S A PIECE OF HANES FOR EVERYONE

Hanes HerWay Intimates

Hanes HerWay bras encompass a varied set of great looking, great fitting styles that make women look and feel their best. Hanes HerWay delivers comfort and quality that meet the expectations of women and give them the confidence to do what they want.

Hanes HerWay Underwear

Hanes HerWay offers soft, comfortable underwear that feels good all day, everyday. They are carefully designed to bring you the best in style and comfort. Hanes HerWay offers traditional favorites and new collections that customers will love.

Men's Boxers and Briefs

Hanes Woven and Knit Boxers provide men with the freedom of movement and a stylish look. They are constructed of soft 100% cotton or cotton blends for the ultimate in style and comfort. With a wide range of prints and colors, Hanes boxers have something for everyone.

Hanes Briefs offer an experience of quality and comfort; with double-stitched seams and an elastic waistband for the fit that will stay comfortably in place. Hanes briefs are available in basic and fashionable styles and colors.

Men's T-shirts

The Hanes T-shirt is a consumer favorite because of its superior 100% cotton comfort. It's constructed with ultra-soft ring-spun cotton and offers a better feel and fit. Hanes shirts are available in the traditional white but also come in seasonal colors.

Sara Lee

BABAO. Had to readjust his body clock.

Julius Babao returns to early-morning TV via 'Magandang Umaga, Bayan'

By Jocelyn Valle

AS "Talk TV's" Julius Babao, Christine Bersola and Ryan Agoncillo were preparing for a meeting with ABS-CBN's management a few weeks ago, many ideas were rushing through their minds, mostly on ways to improve the show, and none about its being cancelled.

Ratings were great, Julius recalls. "It's still a mystery why it was taken off the air," he sighs, "but we have to accept it."

Options

Indeed, nothing is permanent in show biz. "But the good thing about ABS is the fact that management acknowledges talent," he points out. "They always give us options."

In his case, it meant going back to the early-morning slot, via "Magandang Umaga, Bayan," which takes over from "Alas Singko y Medya."

His only problem, says Julius, is readjusting his body clock. It's been a while since he got to bed early (to be able to rise early the following morning). *"Noon sa 'Alas Singko y Medya,' 10 p.m. tulog na ako,"* he recalls, grinning. *"Ngayon 12* (midnight) *na ako nakakatulog, kaya mahirap gumising sa umaga!"*

Solution

He's found a solution in Cheryl Cosim, who's also on "MUB." "I call him on my cell phone," she volunteers. *"Disiplinado kasi ako sa paggising nang maaga."*

When he gets on the set, Julius has to rely on a few cups of black coffee to keep him awake during the three-hour program.

Still, he insists, "projection is the name of the game." He can be in a good mood at all times by being professional and not letting anything bother him.

Bar host

He's more concerned about gaining some unwanted poundage. "I'll be tempted to eat a lot, *kasi may* bar host *kami,*" he shakes his head. *"Puro tulog naman sa* afternoon so *wala talagang* time *para mag*-exercise."

Julius is not saying, though, if having a trim figure is part of his preparations for his altar date with Tin-Tin in December next year. Incidentally, for the first time since 1997, the affianced couple is not in a show together.

In the future, Julius hopes that they will be able to reunite in a talk show like "Mel and Jay." In fact, he and Tin-tin have talked to the veteran broadcasters. "They love the idea *na kami ang papalit sa kanila,*" he enthuses, adding that they've also asked Mel Tiangco and Jay Sonza to be their godparents.

Full commitment

He loves having Tin-Tin as a co-host because they both love their work, giving their full commitment to it (that's why "Talk TV" meant so much to them). Even when they're having dinner together, he smiles, they still talk about their job.

And since the onset of their romance, they have already resolved the foreseeable problem of professional jealousy between them. *"Na*-identify *na kasi namin ang* roles *namin,"* he avers. "And we respect each other."

Both are wary of discussing their relationship in public, particularly in their shows. They want the focus to remain on their guests.

But, since "MUB" is projected to be more opinionated and harder-hitting, Julius will be forthcoming in his views on political issues, social concerns and current events.

Filipino films shine at Cinemanila 2002

CINEMANILA 2002 pays tribute to Philippine cinema through its Director in Focus module, where the outstanding works of Mike de Leon are featured at the Greenbelt cinemas, and Philippine Shorts showing 13 outstanding short films at the Greenbelt Preview Room for free.

Prominence

De Leon is given prominence in the festival as four of his critically-acclaimed and award-winning masterpieces, "Kakabakaba Ka Ba?," "Aliwan Paradise" "Bayaning Third World" (Aug. 13) and "Itim" (Aug. 14), are screened. De Leon had done only nine feature films and three short films but is regarded in the industry as one of the greatest Filipino filmmakers. His other works are "Kung Mangarap Ka't Magising," "Kisapmata," "Batch '81," "Bilanggo sa Dilim," and "Hindi Nahahati ang Langit," his controversial film in which he pulled out his name from the credits even if the film later on proved to be his one and only box-office hit.

Short films

On the other hand, the often neglected makers of short films will shine in Cinemanila 2002's Philippine Shorts. Of the 13 entries, six are in competition—Chris Martinez's "Bakas," the story of a woman who traces the extraordinary relationship of love and forgetting; Bernice de Leon's "Litrato" about a photographer who becomes obsessed with a girl he photographed; Lawrence Cordero's "Batingaw," which tells of a world-weary man's search for life's meaning; "Biyaheng Barya," "Sitcom" and "House Under the Crescent Moon."

DE LEON. Nine feature films and three short films.

Non-competing entries are AM Sugatan Jr.'s "Supot," a story of freedom, oppression and men's lib in the premise of circumcision; Pam Mira's "Bongga," where a woman's wedding turns into disaster; James Flores and Ana Gonzales' "Dirty Mirror," an experimental film about a woman who looks into a mirror and finds her face disjointed; Khavn de la Cruz' "Greaseman," which tackles the opposing lives of a greaseman and a yuppie; Chris Martinez's "Kilapsaw," which tells of a man's memory of lust; Mes de Guzman's "Midnight Sale," and an eye-opener on a shopaholic woman; Anjanet Rase's "Sapatero," about a once famous shoemaker who found his self-worth in a young vendor.

Grand prize

Two other Filipino films are in competition for the grand prize--"Hubog," directed by Joel Lamangan, with Assunta de Rossi and "Bagong Buwan," directed by Marilou Diaz-Abaya, top-billing Cesar Montano, which garnered awards from the 2001 Metro Manila Film Festival for Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Child Actor, Best Theme Song, Best Musical Score.

Makati's Cinemanila 2002 is presented by the City of Makati, and sponsored by Ayala Cinemas, Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Philippine Daily Inquirer, DHL, Yehey!, and RPN-9.

Vina Morales starts bar tour on Aug. 13 at Strumm's Makati

By Edmund L. Sicam

VINA Morales has had her share of heartaches brought about by relationships that went sour (with an action star, a congressman, a foreigner), but the singer-actress is not about to let those setbacks stall her career. In fact, when we spoke to her at the presscon for her forthcoming bar tour, Vina observed that now that she has no one special in her life, her show biz career has never been better.

The bar tour, "Vina Live," will take her to Strumm's Makati on Aug. 13, Dish on Aug. 14, Hard Rock Cafe on Aug. 19 and Conway's Makati Shangri-La on Aug. 24. The series is a project of Butterfly Productions, the same outfit behind "Amazing Nights" at The Fort.

First time

This is the first time she's doing concerts in small venues, so she has to modify her repertoire for the bar crowd. She's used to performing for big venues both here and abroad where people prefer to listen to tunes identified with her. Bar patrons go more for love songs and current hits.

If plans do no miscarry, Vina will accompany herself on an acoustic guitar for a medley of OPM songs, something she did in a previous show. Her performance will not be complete without some dancing, so she intends to spice the show with her own choreography.

MORALES. The right man will come in due time.

There'll be no back-up dancers because of the space limitations, just her moving to the beat of her musical numbers. Vina admits it's tiring to sing and dance at the same time but she's in top physical condition so that should be no problem.

She's so secure about her weight that during the press lunch, she went for the dessert (chocolate brownies and ice cream) before anything else.

Although she hasn't done a movie in two years, Vina is pretty busy with her musical career. The day we spoke to her, she had just arrived from Japan, where she guested in Gary V's concert, After the bar tour, she's off to San Francisco to do a show with Jeremiah on Aug. 31. Then she flies to Las Vegas, then Toronto and Winnipeg in Canada as a guest on Martin Nievera's shows.

On Oct. 26, she will celebrate her 27th birthday with a major concert at the Folk Arts Theater. On top of that, she is one of the hosts of "ASAP" and runs her Ystilo salons.

No time for love

No wonder this young lady has no time for love. With her 27th birthday fast approaching, she's not worried that she still doesn't have a special someone. That's a far cry from her early 20s when she wanted to settle down before turning 30. Now, she's no longer in a hurry and leaves everything to God. She believes the right man will come—in due time.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG. 10 - AUG. 16

CH	7	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Smart Ka Na Ba? 7:30 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Mary d' Potter 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:00 Kakasa Ka ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 To be Announced 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night *Criss Cross aka Tropical Heat* 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	5:30 Hunter X Hunter 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Romy & Michelle's High School Reunion* 11:00 PGMA	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game2 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office	5:30 Bewitched 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 Extreme Close Up *John Leguizamo* 7:30 Mysteries and Scandals 8:00 El True Hollywood Story *The O'Neals* 10:00 David Letterman
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanstaym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	7:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guylerd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *New Age*	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Hideous Kinkys* 11:00 Road Trip	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Travel Time 7:00 Exposed 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Street 10:30 Twilight Zone	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 El Original Special 8:00 Ranks *The Most Eligible Bachelors* 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner *Ashley Judd* 10:00 Movies on El *The Trouble with Girls*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	4:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balitat 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergoist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Fashion TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Worlds Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	6:00 Carila de Angel 7:00 DAR 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Greatest Fights 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Celebrity Adventures 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On *High Seas*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balital 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 Interaction	6:00 Carila de Angel 7:00 PBA Games 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Angel 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Duxie*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Whattamen 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Private Conversation	5:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Friends 9:00 That's 70's Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Beh Bote Nga 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Higher Ground 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Fugitive 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 Wrestling	6:00 Carila de Angel 7:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:00 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 S.A.T.S.U. 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 Baywatch Hawaii 9:00 Combat Mission 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Bermuda Triangle*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	4:00 Value Vision 5:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balital 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Daboy en Da Girl 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Debate w/ Mare and Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 7:30 Sister, Sister 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight	6:00 Carila de Angel 8:00 PBA Games 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire 10:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:30 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Ups 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Riviera '99*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 True Crime	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7:00 The Working President 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balital 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *Gloria Estefan/PhilCollins*	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Malcolm In The Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats On Friday *For the Love of...*	6:00 Carila de Angel 7:00 PBA Provincial Game 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire 10:00 Bilyaran Na 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 X-Men Evolution 8:30 The Chronicle 9:30 Night Visions 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El True Hollywood Story *The Last Days of Elvis* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *The Beach '98*

'Bagong Buwan' reaps accolades in New York City

AFTER its successful run in the Philippines, Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Bagong Buwan" has gone on to reap accolades abroad. The powerful and insightful production was the opening film at the Asian American International Film Festival in New York City last month, and the screening turned out to be an SRO event.

The film was screened at the Asia Society Museum. The venue was filled with film buffs and VIPs like former US Ambassador to the Philippines Nicholas Platt. Americans and other filmfest delegates made up 60 percent of the sellout audience, while the rest were Filipino expatriates.

Despite the diverse nationalities represented in the audience, the film connected with a wide range of viewers, and the movie's end was greeted with an emotional standing ovation.

The film's premiere screening was so successful that it was shown again on July 27, making it the only movie to be shown twice at the prestigious filmfest.

The New York press fussed over director Diaz-Abaya, who was invited to grace the festival. She was interviewed by Reuters and the New York Times' Jessica Hagedorn.

Favorable word of mouth has improved the movie's chances of being picked up for international distribution. For his part, famous director Martin Scorsese, along with his agent and distributor, has asked for the film to be shown in his New York home. Let's hope that this is only the start of "Bagong Buwan's" good showing on the international film circuit.

Tintin Bersola joins 'Etc.'

Tintin Bersola may have lost the "Talk TV" slot to the new troika of hosts on " Morning Girls," but she can still be seen on daytime TV, this time as the co-host of Boy Abunda on Channel 2's 5:30 p.m. weekday show, "Etc."

Tintin's addition to the magazine program has given it greater focus, substance and personality. Her experience as host of various program formats on the tube is a definite plus for "Etc," which is a compilation of show biz news, lifestyle features, and oddities.

It's no secret that Tintin was sorely disappointed when "Talk TV" was dropped, despite its good ratings, to make way for "Morning Girls." But, with "Etc.," she's been given a new opportunity to continue to develop her on-camera skills and persona.

Let's hope that Boy and Tintin will be able to work well together, to give "Etc." the unique character it's been in need of since its inception.

Jazz music at its finest

Ahoy There! Sizzle & Grill has just opened at 89 Timog ave. in Quezon City, featuring jazz music at its finest every Friday and Saturday from 10:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., with the incomparable Eddie K headlining the sets, and the sultry vocals of Sandra Lim-Viray. On the musical menu are mainstream music, jazz fusion and Latin hits.

On the other hand, Tuesday nights from 8 to midnight and Saturday nights from 6 to 10 p.m. feature pop, R&B and retro music, courtesy of Giggles, a lively all-female band. Shows are held on the restaurant's second floor.

The ground level is perfect for casual dinners with family and friends. The food's good, imaginative, and reasonably priced. Call 425-1187.

Romantic piano concertos

On Sunday, Aug. 11, acclaimed pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes will perform six piano concertos at the CCP's Main Theater Lobby.

Specially designed for family audiences, the presentation will start with an open forum at 10 a.m., followed by Beethhoven's No. 5 "Emperor" and Saint-Saens' No. 2 in G minor; at 2 p.m., Grieg's Concerto in A minor and Tchaikovsky's concerto No. 1 in B Flat minor; and at 5 p.m., Schumann's Concerto in A minor and Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 2 in C minor.

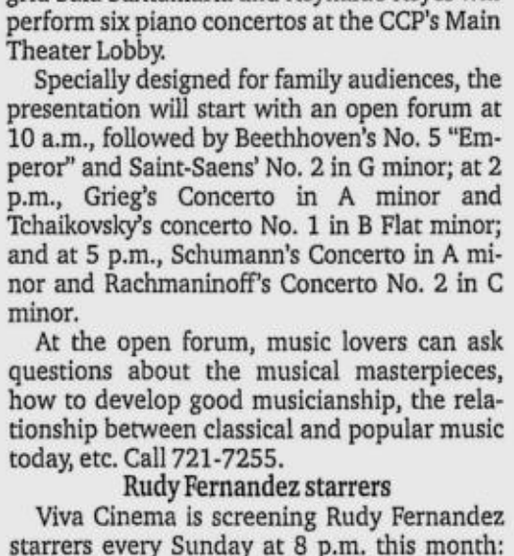
At the open forum, music lovers can ask questions about the musical masterpieces, how to develop good musicianship, the relationship between classical and popular music today, etc. Call 721-7255.

Rudy Fernandez starrers

Viva Cinema is screening Rudy Fernandez starrers every Sunday at 8 p.m. this month: Aug. 11, "Tumbasan Mo ng Buhay with Nanette Medved and Roi Vinzon. Aug. 18, "Kahit Buhay Ko" with Ruffa Gutierrez and Johnny Delgado. And Aug. 25, "Markang Bungo 2."

'Remember the Titans'

On Aug. 17 at 9 p.m., Star Movies is showing "Remember the Titans," a Jerry Bruckheimer production starring Denzel Washington as a black football coach who is hired to guide a racially polarized high school football team. Replays are on Aug. 17 at 9 p.m. and Aug. 23 at 12:15 p.m.



"FANTASIA 2000." The animated classic, restored and updated, will be shown on the Disney Channel at 7:30 p.m. today.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'Speakeasy'

Every Friday at 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. this month, Channel [V] Int'l. screens some of the best episodes of the music and talk show "Speakeasy." Schedule of featured artists: Aug. 16, the Californian free-form funk band Incubus, headed by rock heartthrob Brandon Boyd. Aug. 23, R&B artist Pink.

'Fantasia 2002' on the Disney Channel

At 7:30 p.m. today on the Disney Channel, the special film treat is "Fantasia 2002." this is a restoration of the 1940 Disney classic featuring seven animated short films that are set to classical compositions, along with the original version of "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," featuring Mickey Mouse.

Steve Martin and Bette Midler introduce each segment. Replays on Aug. 11 at 12 noon, and Aug. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

'Diana Krall Live in Manila'

On Studio 23 at 9:30 p.m. today, the televised concert, "Diana Krall Live in Manila," features the elegant musical stylist and her three-man band as they perform her top hits. The original concert was held at the CCP Main Theater.

SM Supermall shows

Fast-rising recording artists Malik and Ybeth Garcia will launch their second singles, 'Sa 'King Pagbabalik" and "Sige Na," respectively, in a series of SM Supermall shows: Aug. 10, SM City Bacoor (Cavite); Aug. 11, SM South Mall (Las Piñas City); Aug. 18, SM City North Edsa; Aug 23, SM Super Sucat (Parañaque City); Aug. 24, SM City Manila; and Aug. 25, SM Centerpoint (Sta. Mesa).

EDDIE K. Performs at Ahoy There! Sizzle and Grill.

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Big movie break for commercial model

By Remy M. Umerez

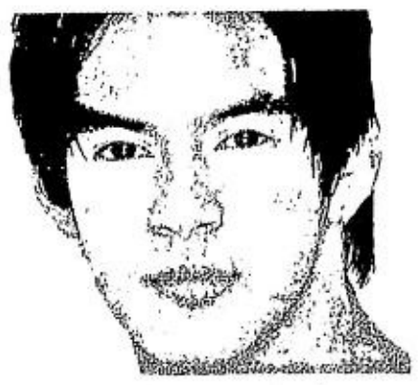
THE UPCOMING adult movie "Gamitan" introduces new actor Jordan Herrera. If the face looks familiar, it's because he is in the new Rexona "boy band" TV commercial, the guy who asks, "*Wala ba kayong mga kamay?*"

Jordan won the 2002 Mossimo Bikini Summit held in Boracay last April. A part of his prize was a movie contract. Viva was quick on the draw and signed him up immediately.

Bold

When told what his role in "Gamitan" would be, Jordan was initially apprehensive because the project is bold in nature.

"Gamitan" casts Jordan as Lui, a nerd who falls in love with Jenny (Maui Taylor), not knowing that he is being used to exact vengeance. It's a tough role, Jordan admits, since it requires him to have steamy scenes with Maui.



JORDAN. Initially apprehensive.

With no acting experiences whatsoever, Jordan had to rely completely on his director, Quark Henares.

Same age

The fact that Quark and Jordan are of the same age helped them to forge a harmonious working relationship. Jordan finds Quark very aggressive and loaded with fresh ideas.

The film's ending shows a remorseful Jordan, a scene which required him to shed tears.

"It was difficult because I don't cry easily. There are no painful experiences in my life to make me cry. *Direk* Quartz was most helpful in motivating me," Jordan shares.

Jordan was born in Sta, Mesa, Bulacan where he resides with his parents. He is the eldest of five children. His mother works in the municipal hall, while his father runs a trucking business.

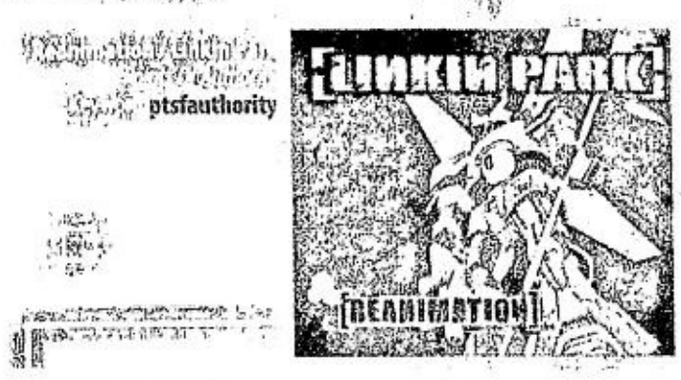
Among his hobbies are lifting weights and playing basketball.

He is a second year HRM student at Far Eastern University and he loves Math. He first dreamed of becoming a seaman until modeling beckoned.

Jordan doesn't know what kind of future show biz has in store for him. He admits to being a complete neophyte in the movie world, but promises to learn and survive the "intriguing" field he has chosen, with his eyes wide open.

Simply hot picks

back2u



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SATURDAY Special

Hits and misses at Cinemanila 2002

By Rito P. Asilo

NO OTHER locally-based film festival offers as much variety, in quality and scope, as the Cinemanila International Film Festival, the annual film event now on its 4th year, spearheaded by film director Tikoy Aguiluz.

It still experiences logistical and technical problems from time to time (last Monday's 11 pm screening of Iran's "Bashu, The Little Stranger," started enthusiastically and ended on a sour note a few minutes after the audience realized it was watching an Iranian film with Italian subtitles!), but has pretty much learned to manage the kinks.

We trust film buffs will troop to Greenbelt to acknowledge the efforts of its organizers in bringing the international film market to this part of Asia.

Quality

What we are concerned about this year's bumper crop, though, is the quality of films in exhibition. Sure, they offer alternative entertainment to pop-driven tarts, and with more than 120 entries this year, you'd expect more films to be at par with last year's pretty impressive line-up, right? Not necessarily, we found out.

First off, for film lovers who don't have the luxury of time and money to watch as many of these films as they want, we suggest you block off your schedule for these must-sees, some of them we've seen in earlier filmfests or rented on DVDs, some of which we managed to buy abroad:

"FOLLOWING." Brilliant brain-crusher.

"BREAD AND TULIPS." 50-something love story.

"IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE." Treatise on failed love.

Cannes winner, **"In the Mood for Love,"** Wong Kar Wai's breathtakingly gorgeous and bittersweet treatise on failed love and unrequited love. Festival circuit favorite **"Central Station,"** about the unlikely friendship of a jaded old woman and a little-boy-lost. The gut wrenching, awesome screenplay of Danis Tanovic's Oscar/Cannes winner, **"No Man's Land,"** that left us dumbfounded in last year's Cinemanila by the time the credits finally rolled.

Alfonso Cuaron's (remember the mesmerizing "A Little Princess" some years ago?) very controversial coming-of-age tale from Mexico, **"Y Tu Mama Tambien"**. The corny but earnestly appealing crowd-pleaser, **"Lagaan,"** about a village that stakes its future of paying tax on a game of cricket against its ruthless British rulers, told through romance, intrigue and musical numbers.

Joel Coen's disturbing amoral tale, **"The Man Who Wasn't There,"** featuring the prolific Billy Bob Thornton and cinema's current wunderkind, Christopher Nolan, in his pre-"Memento" noir mode, the brilliant brain-crusher, **"Following:"**

Sure bets

That's not saying that those are the only good films in exhibition at the festival. They are only some of the sure bets. There are quite a number of other crowd-pleasers, although we miss the grandeur of last year's "Chunhyang," the emotional and visual punch of Nimibutr's "Jan Dara," the surprisingly well-crafted movies of South Korea and the gripping dramatic undercurrents of "Under the Sand."

Here are some of the films we've seen: Japan's unflinching, unapologetic look at the Payatas Tragedy (which they repeatedly called "Patayas"), **"God's Children,"** which follows the lives of poverty-stricken residents of the dumpsite. **"Hana-Bi"** (Japan) charms with its uncharacteristically violent but surprisingly funny and endearing look at a taciturn detective, hardened by the nature of his job, a film that manages to be affecting even without much dialogue.

The self-indulgent, pointless **"What Time Is It There?,"** the story of a watch vendor whose attraction to a customer, who had to leave for Paris the day after they met, drives him to run around Taipei to set all the clocks and watches to Paris time (honestly, after watching the movie, we felt like we've been had)-and, no, they never met again.

HITS/ p. D2

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Meet Adam Beach, Peter Sarsgaard, Christian Camargo and Margalo

By Nestor U. Torre

AS popular film stars get longer in the tooth with the passing of years, new talents are trotted out each year by producers, in the hope that they will catch the audience's fancy, and move up to playing lead roles in film seasons to come.

Young comer

In the Nicolas Cage starrer, "Windtalkers," the young comer is Adam Beach. Unlike most other W.A.S.P. male starlets in Hollywood, Adam is a Native American, a dark-haired, dark-eyed member of the Saulteaux Tribe, who's related to the Ojibway and Chippewa peoples.

Adam is getting his big break in "Windtalkers" because John Woo's new film is a World War II epic about the men who invented a Navajo code that mystified Japanese code-breakers and helped the United States win the war.

In the film, during the Battle of Saipan, Marine Joe Enders (Cage) is assigned to protect "code talker" Ben Yahzee (Beach). The production opted to get authentic North American actors to play the Navajo characters in the film to make it acutely believable.

Advantage

This has worked to Adam's advantage, because his major role in the movie has yanked him out of relative obscurity and made him a hot, new property in Hollywood. His being a Native American could even work to his advantage because it makes him unique.

Adam has been acting on TV and in the movies in Ottawa, Canada for some years now, so he's no show biz tyro by any means. But "Windtalkers" is his first, big, mainstream film, so it can be expected to give his career its biggest boost to date.

Strong supporting roles

Meanwhile, Harrison Ford's latest starrer, "K-19: The Widowmaker" features not just veteran co-stars like Liam Neeson, but promising younger actors in strong supporting roles:

Peter Sarsgaard is cast as Reactor Officer Vadim Radchenko. Sarsgaard initially gained notice with his performance in "The Man in the Iron Mask," which starred Leonardo DiCaprio and John Malkovich.

His early credits include "Dead Man Walking," "Desert Blue," "Another Day in Paradise" and the showtime television presentation of "Freak City."

Critical acclaim

One of Sarsgaard's most compelling performances was in "Boys Don't Cry," where he received critical acclaim for his portrayal of John Lotter, the man who befriends then kills Brandon Teena (Hilary Swank).

He was more recently seen in Wayne Wang's "The Center of the World," and opposite Val Kilmer in "The Salton Sea."

Also in "K-19: The Widowmaker" is Christian Camargo, to whom has been entrusted the role of Pavel Loktev. His growing list of credits includes "Harlem Aria" with Damon Wayans, "Plunkett and MacLean," "Double Bang" and "Lip Service," as well as a television pilot titled "Elementary."

Broadway production

He has also appeared in plays in New York City, including a Broadway production of "Skylight," as well as the Public Theater's "Kit Marlowe" and "Hamlet."

In London, he appeared in Shakespeare's Globe productions like "Henry V" and "Chaste Maid in Cheapside." Other credits include "Poison Tree" for the Mark Taper Forum, "Design for Living" for the Goodman Theater, and "Timon of Athens" for the New York Shakespeare Festival.

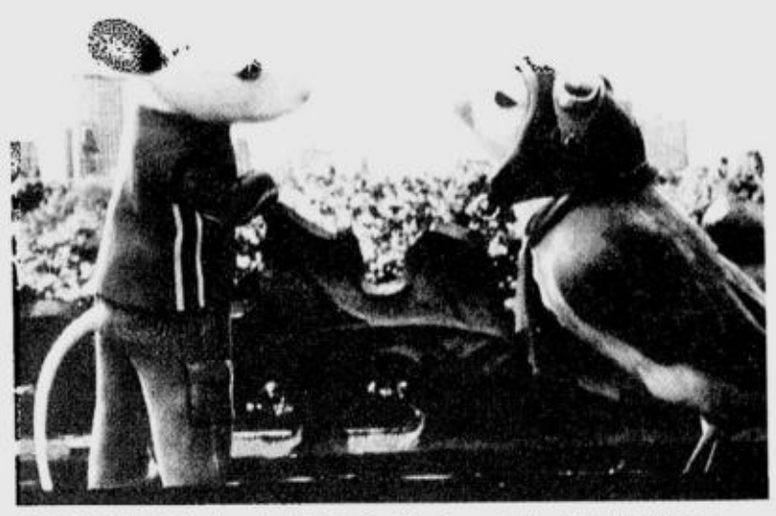
BEACH. A member of the Saulteaux tribe.

Our last new movie personality is even more unique than the others we've introduced and profiled. Margalo is not a person, not even a live animal character, but the cartoon bird who co-stars with Stuart, the tiny mouse lead of "Stuart Little 2."

Beguiling bird

It's obvious that Stuart has a crush on the beguiling bird who literally falls from the sky and into his life, but Margalo turns out to be hiding a dark secret, and is not what she appears to be. When she mysteriously disappears, Stuart sets out on a dangerous journey to find her.

Margalo is voice-acted by Melanie Griffith, who admits that it was a big challenge to play the little "bird thief with a heart of gold." With her help, the character of Margalo has become so striking and appealing that she could just fly away with the film—and reappear in subsequent sequels of the "Stuart Little" film series!



MARGALO, right, is a "bird thief with a heart of gold" in "Stuart Little, 2."

Viewers can easily relate to 'The Gilmore Girls'

By Mona Gonzalez

I CAN'T remember the last time that a TV series revolved around the relationship between a single mother and her daughter. The closest thing that I can recall would be "The Courtship of Eddie's Father," about a single dad and his son, which was a take-off from the movie with the same title.

Small town

In the case of the latter, "Eddie" was a cute little boy, aged 6 or 7. "The Gilmore Girls" is about Lorelei, a beautiful, intelligent, modern divorcee and her teenage daughter, Rory, and the small town in which they live. The show is telecast on Saturdays on Channel 23 at 8:30 p.m.

There are evident flaws in the show. Although there is much wit, the dialogue sounds the same, regardless of who is speaking.

Interesting

Second, while the actress who plays Lorelei is very pretty and interesting to watch, I get troubled by the way she delivers her lines. There's something that's not quite right.

But what makes the program interesting is that it's about a single mother who is witty, spunky, intelligent, has a good career, and is quite the rebel. I could name a good number of friends who are very much like her.

Lorelei's character becomes even more interesting because she comes from a rich family, and spends a large chunk of her time rebelling against her background. On the other hand, her daughter Rory is more tolerant, and does not have her mother's rebellious streak.

Spa

For example, there's the episode where Lorelei takes the weekend off (to go to a spa with her mother), who advises her daughter to "party all night" while she's gone, and to invite "bikers and bar girls" while she's at it.

> The show is about a single mother who's witty, spunky, intelligent, has a good career, and is quite the rebel—I could name a good number of my friends who are very much like her

That episode becomes even interesting because the spa (which is intended to become a restful and tranquil experience) ends up bringing to light all the reasons why Lorelei and her mother don't get along.

Laundry

Meanwhile, Rory decides to spend the weekend alone at home doing the laundry, and doesn't even invite her boyfriend to spend the night with her. However, her "hoped for" quiet weekend ends up being busy and crowded, as well.

Or, there is the episode where Rory agrees to attend a "coming-out ball" for daughters of rich scions at her grandmother's request (something Lorelei once refused to do herself). Plus the episode where Rory decides to sit for a portrait to be done by a high-end artist, also at her grandmother's request—to Lorelei's dismay.

What do I like about "The Gilmore Girls"? The fact that there are a lot of familiar elements in terms of how the characters relate to each other. Not just those mentioned, but even in how Lorelei loves the owner of a coffee shop (whom her mother would never approve of) but can't transcend her own background (which she fights so hard against) to give voice to her feelings.

Nephew

Another familiar bit is the coffee shop owner who loves Lorelei but is afraid to tell her; and his nephew, a troubled young man who loves Rory, and goes to great lengths to make her preppy boyfriend jealous and stir up trouble between them.

Much of it may seem like a collection of clichés, but the program has a way of putting it all together in a manner that makes it work. Maybe because the actors are themselves interesting and there are enough surprises in each episode to make the viewer want to see how it will unfold.

Another good thing is that the show skips the temptation to play up the feminist theme. Instead, it focuses on a single parent, her relationship with her daughter and how they relate to a small community in a larger world.

Characters

My 11-year-old daughter loves to watch this show. I once asked her, "Do you like it because the characters are like us?" She smirked, then said, "No, Mom."

It occurred to me that, to her, I am nothing like Lorelei. I don't share her glamour, wit, "new millennial ways," or understated beauty. I'm just the old, bespectacled mama who struggles to do 20 minutes on the air walker. Oh, well.

Lorelei's character may be complex, and if the program weren't a comedy, the episodes could become overly dramatic. Thankfully, they focus instead on the funny side of life. Now here's the rub: I never laugh at any of their jokes. But the episodes *are* interesting and enjoyable!

Things music buffs should know about the Corrs

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

1. JIM Corr plays electric and acoustic guitars, keyboards, accordion and sings back-up vocals occasionally.
2. Jim smashed his father's brand new Citroen car when he backed up into a post.
3. Jim was 13 when he sneaked out of the house and stayed out all night.
4. Jim hates slow-moving lifts.

Favorite band

5. Jim's favorite band is The Police.
6. Jim used to have an eight-track studio.
7. When Sharon was young, she had to lock her clothes away because Andrea and Caroline always "borrowed" them.
8. Sharon's favorite outfit used to be a pair of flares and an action man jumper.
9. Sharon hates hotel hairdryers that are struck in the wall because she can't get enough air from them.
10. Sharon once put Jim's socks on Caroline's nose while she was asleep to wake her up, but Caroline remained oblivious to it.
11. Sharon used to work at McManus's in Dundalk with Andrea and Caroline.
12. Sharon used to be a manager of a record shop.

Big fan

13. Sharon is a big fan of Crowded House.
14. Sharon used to play women's Gaelic football before they formed The Corrs.
15. Sharon became the first Corr millionaire after she received 1,000,000 Turkish pound notes from a friend.
16. Sharon had a schoolgirl crush on soul singer Paul Young.
17. Andrea gets affected and cries whenever she watches heavy emotional movies like "Leaving Las Vegas," "The Piano," "Midnight Cowboy," "Betty Blue" and "Last Tango in Paris."
18. On her first plane trip, Andrea thought she had to pay for the food!
19. When Andrea was growing up in Ireland, she thought that all families sang and played instruments.

Porridge

20. Andrea loves porridge and hates dirty carpets.
21. Andrea nearly died of kidney infection when she was born.
22. Andrea used to love listening to Prince but her parents stopped her from doing it.
23. Andrea was tomboyish as a kid and has cuts and bruises to prove it.
24. James Steven Ignatius Corr is the eldest and tallest of the four siblings. He prefers to be known as "Jim," and loves being the big brother to his sisters.

Hits and misses at Cinemanila . . .

From p. D1

The old and worn "Alias La Gringa," a 1991 Peruvian film, in which every time a would-be assassin is shown onscreen, horror music is played conspicuously in the background, which should have been left unscreened in the 20th century. The unlikely comic British film, Ken Loach's "**The Navigators**," which was surprisingly unlike many stiff and much-too-serious British films.

Singaporean director Eric Khoo's brilliant character studies in "**12 Storeys**," (which features scathing social commentaries that include something about other nationalities, including Filipinos, like "Filipino maids expect to be treated fairly but do nothing;" "I want to be a Filipino because in that country, a murderer can be a hero—look at that maid who went home a hero and even got a visit from the Philippine president's wife!") and his bizarre "**Mee Pok Man**," the interesting, macabre story of a lonely fishball noodle vendor, who falls in love with a prostitute who dreams of quitting the flesh trade—she gets side-swiped by a car, he finds her, takes her home and nurses her unsuccessfully, and lets her decaying corpse keep him company.

Comic adaptation

The enthrallingly delightful, loose comic adaptation of "Romeo and Juliet," MTV-style, "**Chicken Rice War**," complete with a lip-synching narrator. The fun "**Forever Fever**," starring Lea Salonga's leading man, Adrian Pang, in last year's stage musical, "They're Playing Our Song."

"**Taxi Para Tres**," a morality play about a cab driver initially forced to help con men who is eventually sucked into crime. The lovable, funny 50-something love story, "**Bread and Tulips**," about a woman accidentally left behind by her tourist bus—she meets a lonely man who sweeps her off her feet in romantic Venice. The beautifully-photographed, superbly acted (by Indonesian superstar Christine Hakim, a Lolita Rodriquez look-alike and act-alike), albeit a bit slow "**Whispering Sands**."

France's wunderkind Francois Ozon's funny, delightful whodunit-thriller-*cum*-musical, "**8 Women**," featuring France's top actresses, like Catherine Deneuve. The wonderfully-acted "**Away From Home**" (Turkey).

The very original "**Quitting**," an arresting anti-drug, true-to-life film from China that combines film and stage, acted by the very people who went through the experience, including doctors, siblings, the protagonist's parents, etc.. The self-absorbed, surreal "**The Traveling Salesman**;" the excruciating "**Chico**;" Denmark's crowd-pleasing "**Flickering Lights**," and the Thai film, "**69**," an engaging thriller from Pen-ek Ratanaruang, who lacks the visual flair of Nimibutr but makes up with his narrating expertise and unforced humor—and graphic violence, with body parts dismembered, blood dripping and oozing all over the place.

There were no stars, no directors to cap off each screening this year, which was okay. After all, no amount of articulation or rationalization can make a bad film better. A film should speak for itself.

"Y TU Mama Tambien" (left), "The Man Who Wasn't There" (below left), and "Chicken Rice War" (below, right) are only three of the outstanding movies being screened at the filmfest.

Teen Choice Awards honor 'Spider-Man,' 'Mr. Deeds,' Britney Spears

UNIVERSAL CITY, California—Mandy Moore and Shane West displayed the coolest chemistry in "A Walk to Remember," but Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst had the best "lip lock" for their rainy, upside-down smooch in "Spider-Man."

Voters

So decreed the voters of the Teen Choice Awards, the fourth annual youth popularity celebration held Sunday at the Universal Amphitheater.

Britney Spears and Ja Rule were selected favorite female and male singers, while Usher was named best rap artist and his single "U Got It Bad" was chosen best love song.

The Adam Sandler comedy "Mr. Deeds" was chosen movie of the summer, while "Spider-Man" claimed favorite action film and last summer's raunchy "American Pie 2" was named "Choice Movie Your Parents Didn't Want You To See."

Best TV comedy

Voters selected "Friends" best TV comedy, while MTV's documentary series about rocker Ozzy Osbourne's family received best TV reality show. "7th Heaven" won best TV drama.

Ice skater Michelle Kwan and Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant won favorite female and male athlete, respectively.

The Teen Choice Awards ceremony was taped for broadcast Aug. 19 on the Fox network. Votes for favorite actors, musicians and athletes were cast on forms published in Seventeen, a fashion and lifestyle magazine targeting teenage girls, and made available online. *AP*

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Wholesome image helps Piolo and Camille land endorsements

By Edmund L. Sicam

WHEN it comes to commercial endorsements, Piolo Pascual is one actor whose services are in great demand. At a time when the movie industry is in a slump, show biz personalities depend on ads to supplement their income. The money can be quite substantial, depending on the products that they endorse and how popular these personalities are.

Busy actor

In Piolo's case, endorsements seem to be only the icing on the cake, because he is quite busy with his many commitments in the entertainment business. He has started shooting a movie with special friend Judy Ann Santos. He has his regular TV shows and is a member of the popular group, The Hunks, which has had sold-out concerts here and abroad. This is also one important reason why advertisers are lining up to put Piolo in their commercials.

Just recently, he added Max's Restaurant to the long list of products that he endorses. In line with Max's new campaign, "Max Masarap," Piolo is shown wearing his winning smile as he relishes every bite of his fried chicken.

According to company executives, the actor was chosen for his "wholesome, family-oriented image" and his ability to "win the hearts of every Filipino." It was also important that he personify the Pinoy quality of the product, since many of the competitors are foreign franchise brands.

He has retained his wholesome image despite his revelation that he fathered a child without the benefit of marriage. It is probably his decision to face the consequences of his actions that has endeared him to his fans. Advertisers have taken notice and signed him up, warts and all.

When Sara Lee signed him up to endorse its latest men's fragrance, "The Boy Next Door," they didn't change their mind when the news about his child came out. Piolo's name (along with Jericho Rosales who endorses another fragrance "Mr. Nice Guy") registered high in the survey that the company conducted among their thousands of dealers nationwide.

PASCUAL. Winning smile.

PRATS. Squeaky-clean.

Unique approach

Sara Lee's approach was unique in that the marketing strategy was to project the wholesome nature of the fragrances, instead of mounting a sex-oriented campaign, the usual tack taken by perfume advertisers. The idea seems to have worked.

Another actress with a wholesome image is 17-year-old Camille Prats, who has been the image model of Banco Filipino's Happy Savers Club since she was 10. The teener has cultivated her squeaky-clean reputation since she started out in ABS-CBN's "Ang TV" at the age of seven.

Many youngsters have a tough time during their adolescence and end up rebelling against their parents, but Camille says she didn't have such problems because her parents brought her up well.

Show biz also didn't make Camille lose her childhood. Working on television was a game for her and, when she got home, there were children she could play with. Even at the age of 17, she has retained her child-like ways. We observed that she still has a sense of wonder that many teeners lose when they join show biz.

Camille turns 18 on June 20, 2003 but this early, her family is already preparing for her debut at the Edsa Shangri-La. Initially, Camille didn't want to have a grand celebration and just wanted to go abroad, but her mom told her she would turn 18 only once in her lifetime. So the dutiful daughter agreed.

Travel

Camille might just get her travel wish sooner than expected. If plans do not miscarry, she might go to the US this October. She's never been to the States and is excited about visiting relatives in Los Angeles and trying out all the rides at Six Flags Mountain.

Aside from her show biz commitments, Camille is serious about finishing her schooling. Despite her busy schedule, she has not stopped going to school and intends to go to college next year. Initially, she wanted to major in Psychology because she wants to become a pre-school teacher, but her mom had other ideas. "*Sabi ni mommy, wala raw akong tiyaga sa mga bata*, so she wants me to take up Management."

A management degree would be perfect because her dad has many businesses. She and brother John, who endorses Hawk bags, have already divided the responsibility. She would handle his advertising business while John would take care of their construction company.

'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' at Meralco Theater

OROSA . Cast as Tummus.

THE MUSIC and magic continue in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," at the Meralco Theater this weekend, with matinee shows at 3 p.m. on Aug. 10 and 11, and gala shows at 8 p.m. on Aug. 10 and 11.

Adaptation

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" is an all-Filipino adaptation of C.S. Lewis' classic tale of four children—Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy—who stumble into a wardrobe and find themselves in Narnia, under the evil spell of a beautiful White Witch. There, they met various talking animals and a great lion named Aslan and together, they work to free the Narnia from its enchantment.

Playing the pivotal roles of the four children are Franco Mabanta and Paolo Valenciano as Peter; Camille Cabrera and Crisel Consunji as Susan; Sam Concepcion and Iñaki Ting as Edmund and Moreen Guese and Cheska Ortega as Lucy.

Other lead players

Also in the cast are Audie Gemora as Aslan, Carla Martinez and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo as the White Witch; Carlo Orosa and Meynard Peñalosa as Tumnus; Roy Rolloda and Robbie Zialcita as Mr. Beaver; Sweet Plantado and Anna Liza Zialcita as Mrs. Beaver; and Steve Cadd and Bonggoy Manahan as Father Christmas.

Other playdates are matinee shows (at 3 p.m.) on Aug. 17, 18, 24, 25, 31, Sept. 1,7,8,14 and 15; with gala performances (at 8 p.m.) on Aug. 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31, Sept. 6,7,8,13,14 and 15. Call 633-5010.

Leading critic . . .

From p. D7

Ray Carney, another well-known critic, proclaims him as "one of the few now practicing worthy of the company of the greatest film critics of our past—Robert Warshow, James Agee, and Manny Farber—and like theirs, his work has that rare depth and richness that can make one momentarily forget the artificial and destructive division between "scholarship" and the general humane response any human being feels towards a film."

Passion

His passion for the movies resonates throughout his writing, even in the analytical "Overexposures: The Crisis in American Filmmaking" (Morrow Quill). The 23 essays compiled in this book are all eye-openers, providing insightful and provocative commentaries on the state of American films and filmmaking. *(To be concluded)*

'Illusione...Encore' staged on Aug. 16 at Star Theater

"ILLUSIONE'S" Diana Ross.

BAHAGHARI Productions brings back "Illusione" in "Illusione...Encore" at the newly opened Star Theater at the CCP Complex starting on Aug. 16. Other show dates are Aug. 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and Sept. 1. The show will also have performances in Cebu City today and in Pampanga on Sept. 6 and 7.

Some of the most-applauded scenes to be included in the repeat are the Black Divas medley featuring James Cooper as Diana Ross, the Broadway suite, and the Swan Lake Suite featuring Douglas Nierras, who is directing the second run of "Illusione."

The new divas are Barbra Streisand, Marilyn Monroe, Liza Minneli, Celine Dion, Chaka Khan and Zsa Zsa Padilla. Call 687-0990.

Allan K at Siete Pecados

Allan K headlines "Celebrities@Siete Pecados" on Aug. 15 at the Westin Philippine Plaza's Siete Pecados.

The rest of the month, RM bands deliver high-energy music at Siete Pecados. Featured are Arpie and the Multi-Vitamins back-to-back with Kislev on Mondays; Illustra on Tuesdays; Arpie and the Milti-Vitamins/Shoop on Wednesdays; Music Making Co./Outbreak on Thursdays; Arpie and the Multivitamins/Kislev on Fridays and Arpie and the Multi-Vitamins/Adlib St. on Saturdays. Call 551-5555 or 534-3527.

MONTAGE

Joey Albert at Captain's Bar

105.1 Crossover presents the return of Joey Albert in a special one-night engagement at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental on Aug. 15.

Joey performs her timeless hits like "Tell Me," "It's Over Now" and "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin." Joining the singer are comedian Jon Santos with resident musicians Mel Villena, Bobby Taylo, Cesar Aguas, Roy Mercado amd Gerard Salonga as musical director.

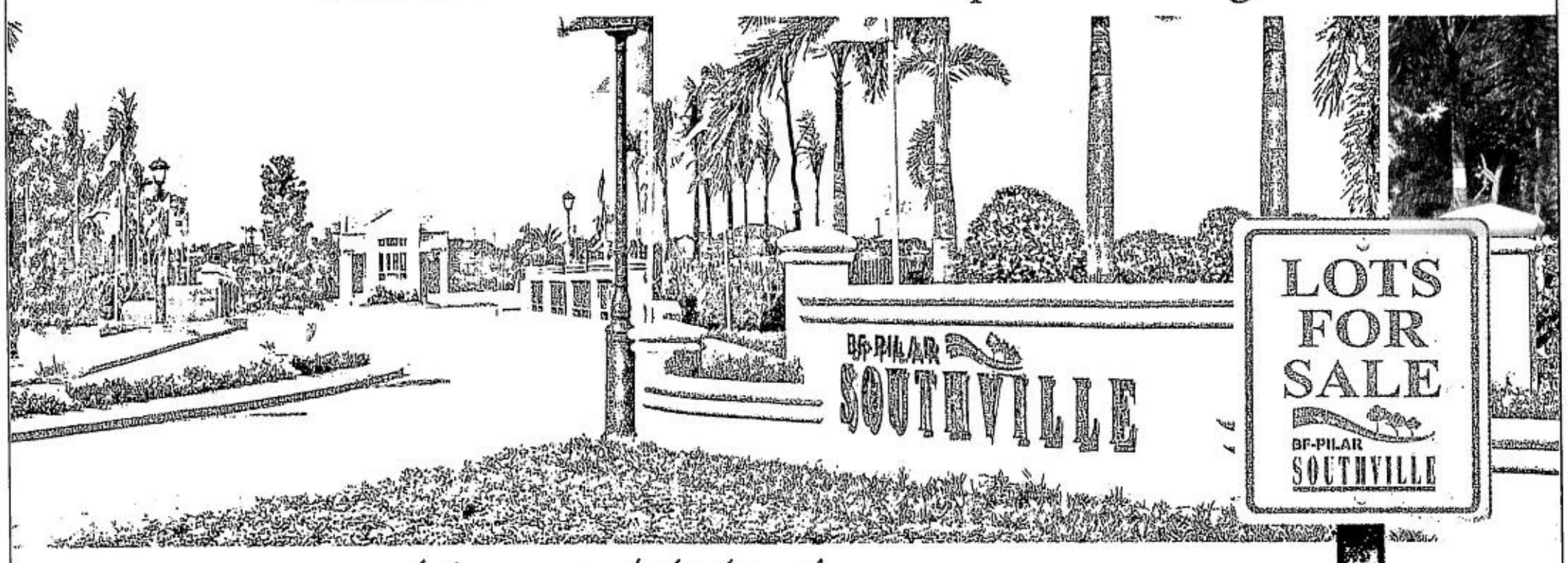
South Border at Hard Rock Cafe

Hard Rock Cafe presents South Border in an evening of R&B and the best of today's pop, soul and hip-hop on Aug. 10 and 17. On regular weeknights, HRC offers Pido with Take one on Mondays, Rage on Tuesdays, Route 70 and Dynasouls on Wednesdays, BIG on Thursdays, Prime Council on Fridays, Origin on Saturdays and KO Jones on Sundays.

Videoke finals at Metropoint

Metropoint Mall continues with its series of shows for the rainy season. The grand finals of "Awit Galing," a videoke singing contest will be held on Aug. 11 with Dennis Padilla as host. Classical singer Nolyn Cabahug will be one of the judges. *(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)*

The Heart of Southern Tropical Living



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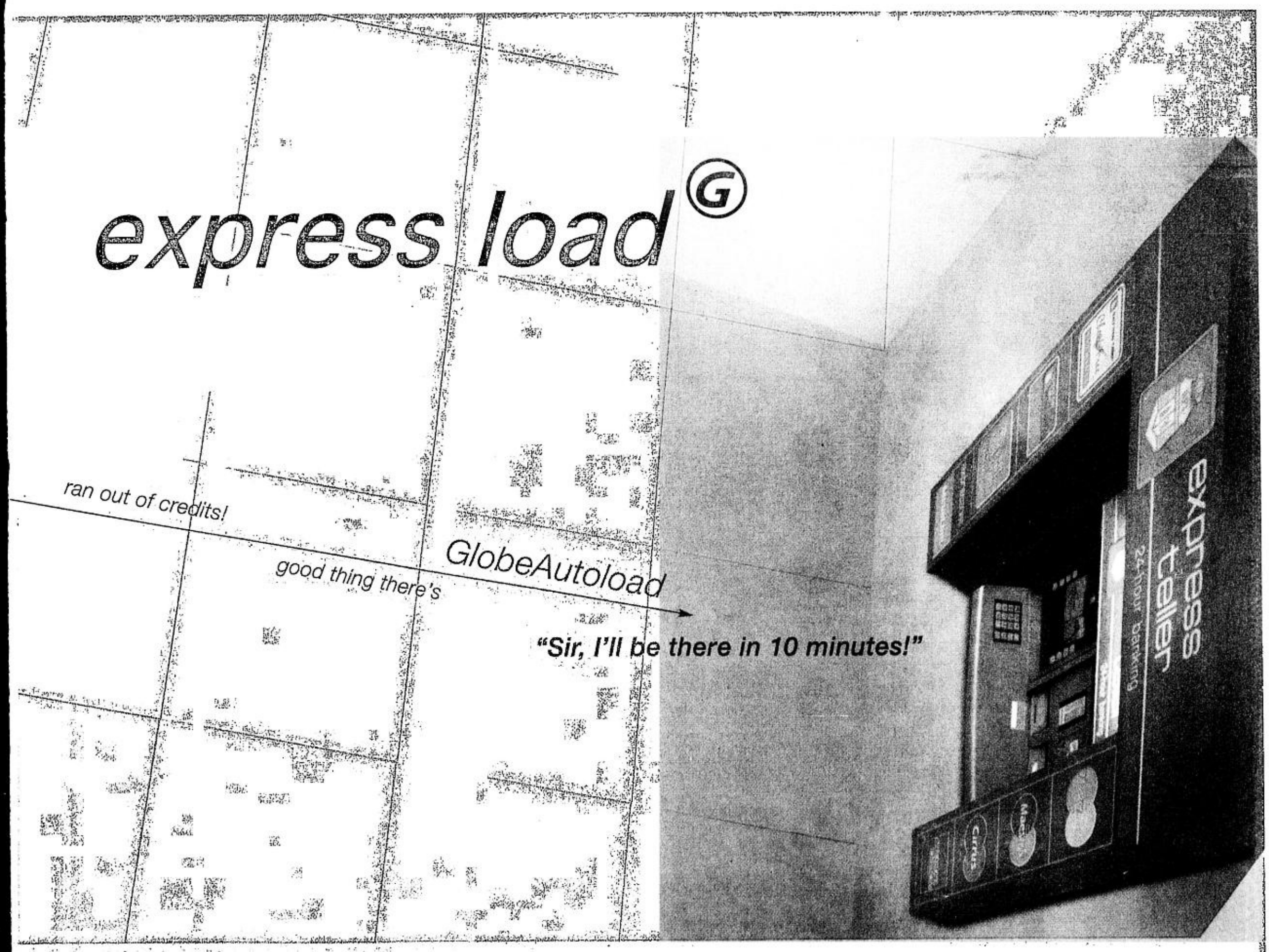

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ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

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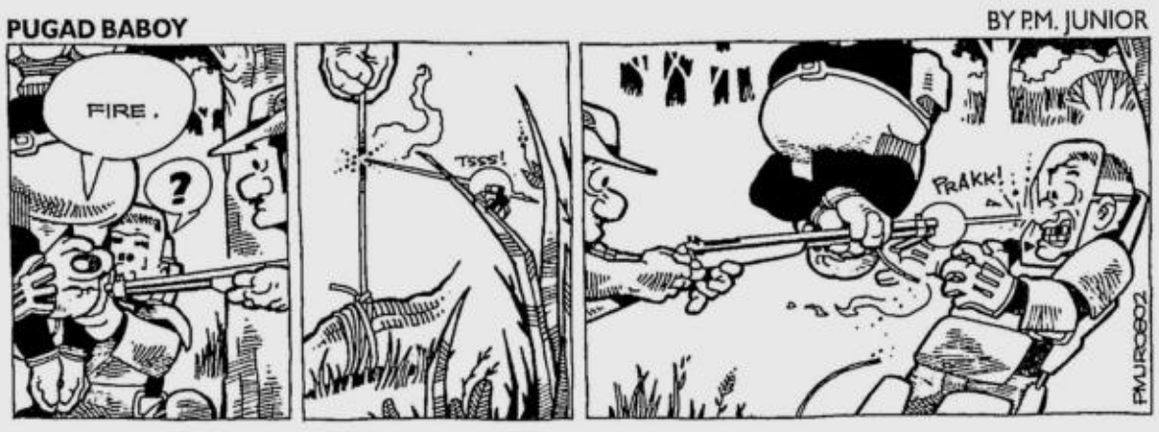
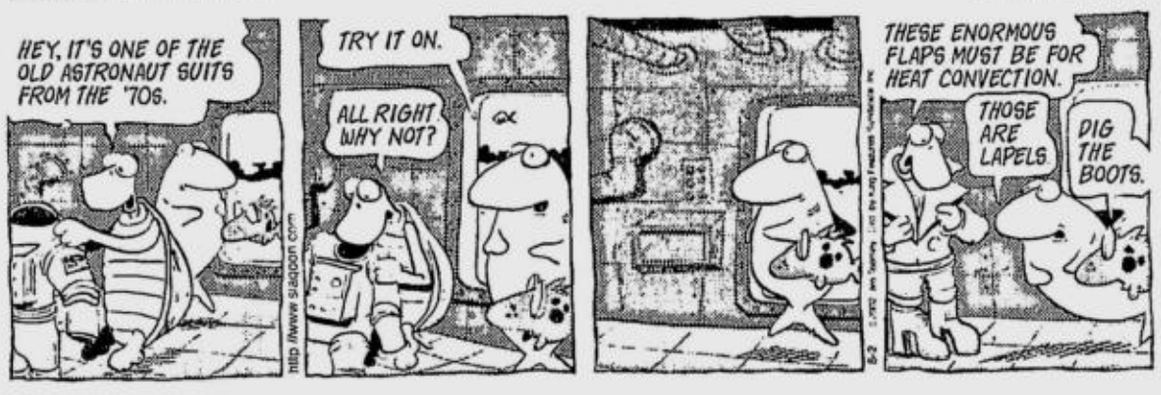


SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY



SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peter O'Toole, Carroll O'Connor, Victoria Jackson, Hallie Eisenberg
Happy Birthday: Don't let your emotions get in the way of your better judgment this year. Be practical in all your dealings. Many opportunities are just around the corner, so be ready. Some health issues may arise if you don't practice sensible diet and get plenty of exercise. Your numbers are 9, 15, 28, 30, 33, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your intuition will be enhanced and you should feel confident in your dealings. Your ability to put things together well will be admired by your peers and your superiors. Present your ideas.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You won't see things the way they really are today. Self-deception is likely, especially when dealing with issues pertaining to partnerships. Ask a trusted friend for advice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will attract dubious people and organizations that are likely to lead you astray today. You will be faced with opposition if you don't clear your head and think for yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll take great pleasure in helping those less fortunate today. Become an active member in a group you believe in, and you will attract new partners and friends. Your green thumb with people will be sure to bring you popularity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should try to associate with those who are creative and unique in their approach to life. Use your intuition and learn by observing others. Someone you care about may be more upset than you first thought.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a greater interest in your community. Your ability to reason will give you the edge when it comes to helping others. You will have a good handle on everything you do today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your interest in making money and achieving success today will lead you into unknown territory. You will be eager to get ahead to provide your family with the freedom that success can bring.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You won't back down if you are romantically interested in someone today, or if you want to get your point across to friends. Your family will be in an uproar if they oppose your choices of entertainment or friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Just when you feel comfortable with what you do professionally, something new will be thrown your way. You always shine when your day is full of surprises, so don't shy away this time. Believe in yourself and accept the challenge.

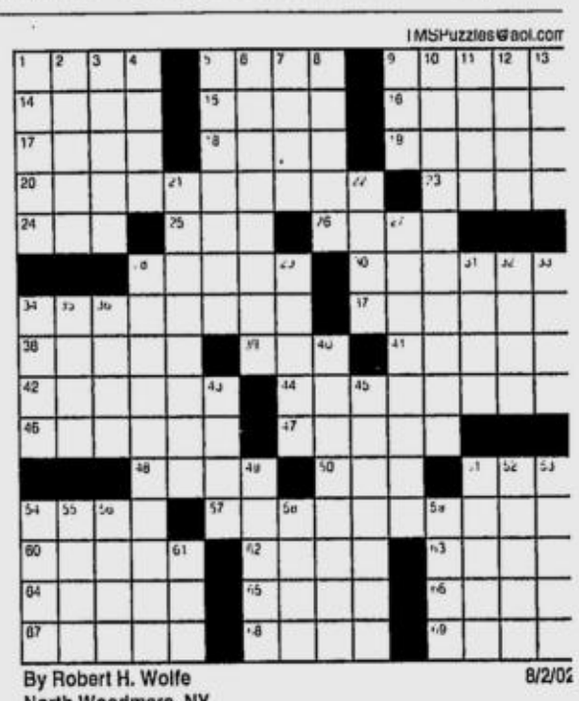
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will use your imagination to entertain your friends. You will enjoy doing things with youngsters. You have a lot to offer and will be admired for your giving nature.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will want your home to be special. Use your imagination and you'll come up with a unique plan that will get noticed and will pay off at a later date.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your debate with someone with whom you disagree will make you even more sure that you are right. Chances are this other person will end up wishing that they hadn't put up such a fuss.

Birthday Baby: You will be a self-starter and a stubborn competitor. You will welcome challenges and be ready to do whatever is necessary in order to accomplish what you set out to do.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

ACROSS
1 Quantum theorist Niels
5 Amorphous amount
9 Very successful: slang
14 Toast topper
15 Greasy
16 Portable memory
17 Vegas numbers
18 One condo
19 Farm equipment maker
20 Latvian hoer?
23 British gun
24 I told you so
25 Dawn goddess
26 Bro's bros
28 Mutilates
30 Surgical implants
34 One claiming divine right
37 Evening do
38 Sentimental novelist Fannie
39 Alternative to ready?
41 Bow of film
42 Bring out
44 Err on an abacus
46 Recess
47 Anterior
48 Break a habit
50 Blowup of a photo
51 Hot tub
54 Ringlike earring
57 Belarus captain?
60 Messenger
62 Business VIPs
63 Olden days
64 Vertical post
65 Half: pref.
66 Delineate
67 Loafer bottoms
68 Idyllic place
69 "Lohengrin" lady

DOWN
1 Rude ones
2 Song of the past
3 Avoid taking a stand
4 Parks of black history
5 Lady's room
6 Tennis official
7 "Havana" star Lena
8 Computer memory units
9 A following?
10 Ukrainian seaman?
11 Bother
12 Woods warning
13 Portent
21 Responsive
22 Fixes
27 Green vegetable
28 Russian rancher?
29 Crush
31 German wife
32 Fork-tailed seabird
33 Do ushering
34 Composer Musgrave
35 Ship part
36 __ the Red
40 Boring
43 Side in a contest
45 Gets through a skull?
49 Alcove
51 Ruin
52 Salon sets
53 Field of endeavor
54 Shell rival
55 Aware of
56 Oblong circle
58 Requisite
59 Gomer of Mayberry
61 Okay

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

B	A	C	H		M	A	C	A	W		W	A	Y	S
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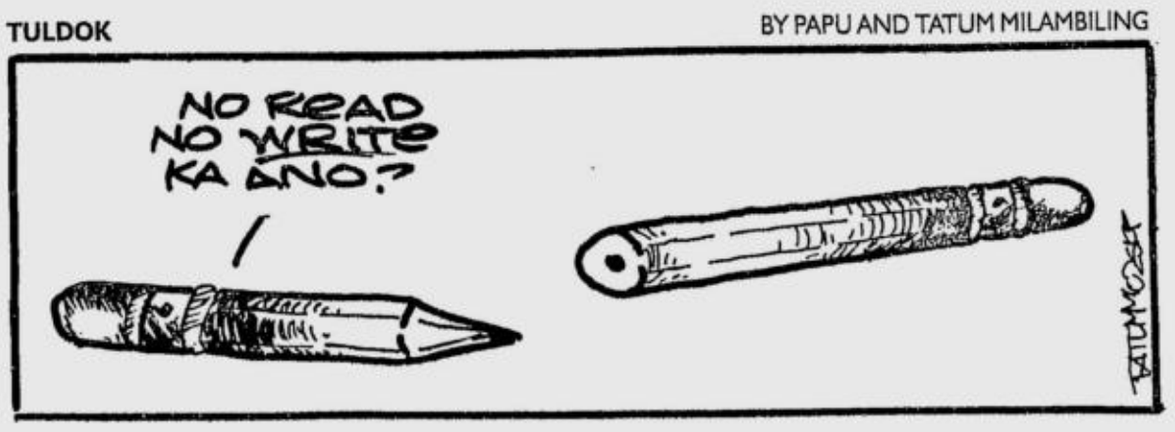

Education and the stars

SHOW BIZ Q&A

Rito P. Asilo

"I HAVE a number of favorite actresses. I love watching the performances of Meryl Streep, Jane Fonda, Sissy Spacek, Michelle Pfeiffer, Glenn Close, Jessica Lange and Diane Keaton, even when their movies are bad. Can you tell me which schools these actresses attended? What courses did they take?" —*Kevyn Moreno, Carcar, Cebu*

Very interesting question, Kevyn. Meryl Streep's early performing abilities leaned towards the opera. The former cheerleader and Homecoming Queen went to Vassar, Dartmouth and Yale Drama School. She was a prolific stage actress who appeared in over 40 productions!

Distant relative

Glenn Close, a close friend of Streep, has a degree in drama and anthropology from the College of William and Mary. Brooke Shields is a second cousin, while the late Princess Diana was a distant relative.

Do you know that she was only the fourth choice for "Fatal Attraction," after Debra Winger, Barbara Hershey and Miranda Richardson? Unknown to many, she was also hired to dub all of Andie MacDowell's lines in "Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes" because the former model's voice had such a heavy southern accent.

Art scholar

On the other hand, Jessica Lange was an art scholar at the University of Minnesota before she flew to Paris to study drama. She lives with noted playwright and actor Sam Shepard, and has three kids with danseur Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Michelle Pfeiffer, a former model who finished high school in three years, went to Golden West College, where she studied to become a court reporter. Later on, she took acting classes at the Beverly Hills Playhouse.

She turned down roles taken over by Jodie Foster ("The Silence of the Lambs") and Sharon Stone ("Basic Instinct"), and replaced Madonna in "The Fabulous Baker Boys." She is married to writer/producer David E. Kelley ("Ally McBeal," "The Practice," "Picket Fences").

PFEIFFER. Finished high school in only three years.

Vassar alumna

Fitness Queen Jane Fonda was first a top-rate actress before she made aerobics the vogue. Henry Fonda's daughter is an alumna of Vassar and Lee Strasberg's Actors Studio. Her last film was with Robert de Niro, 1990's "Stanley and Iris." She retired in 1991. Diane Keaton, who was in the original cast of "Hair," a play known for its nudity (she was only understudy of the lead but gained more attention by not removing any of her clothes in the play), is an alumna of Sta, Ana College and the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York. She was only paid $35,000 for "The Godfather," but earned $1.5 M for "The Godfather 3."

Homecoming Queen

Like Streep, Sissy Spacek was a Homecoming Queen and majorette, and attended Lee Strasberg's Actors Studio. She skipped college altogether after her brother died of leukemia when she was a senior in high school.

The year Sissy was nominated for her Oscar-winning performance in "Coal Miner's Daughter," she also earned a Grammy nomination ("Best Female Country Vocal Performance") for her rendition of the movie's title song.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Leading critic focuses on Hollywood

By Noelani Torre

HE is, quite simply, brilliant, this son of South London who fell in love with movies and moved to California just to be near that juggernaut of filmmaking called Hollywood.

The New York Times hailed him as one of the finest film critics in the English language when his most celebrated work, "A Biographical Dictionary of Film," was published in the '70s (it was updated twice, once in the '80s and then in 1994), and from then on, he had nowhere to go but up.

Respected

David Thomson is a critic of no little renown, highly respected not only by readers but also by the denizens of the movie industry and his own colleagues.

LEADING/ p. D4

Spotlight on Korn's 'Untouchables'

The lyrics are largely unintelligible, but frequent backtracking reveals depressing and disturbing sentiments

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

CHILDREN'S faces stare out of the album cover, some of them bruised and bloodied, and all of them reflecting cynicism, mockery, and misery. The list of songs looks like it was written—smeared—in blood, and the titles themselves—"Thoughtless," "Hating," "Wake Up Hate," etc.—are an introduction of sorts to the flavor of Korn's music.

After we first listened to the entire "Untouchables" album, we got a pounding headache and ringing ears. A second playing rendered the whole thing more palatable, and a third and fourth finally enabled us to do some real listening:

Heavy drumbeats

The album opens with "Here to Stay," the lot's most successful single so far. Here, one makes the acquaintance of Silveria's heavy drumbeats, bassist Reginald "Fieldy" Arvizu's hip-hoppy bass, guitarists James "Munky" Shaffer and Brian "Head" Welch's eerie but funky sound, and Davis' rasping voice in full rant and rage.

The lyrics are largely unintelligible at first, but frequent backtracking reveals such depressing and disturbing sentiments as "I take my face and bash it into a mirror/ I won't have to see the pain. Bleed, bleed/ This state is elevating as the hurt turns into hating/ Anticipating all the f***ed up feelings again."

The song has a strong rhythm and is surprisingly easy to sing—er, rant—with, except one isn't always sure what one is ranting about!

Other songs we more or less like include "Alone I Break" and "No One's There," probably because we can actually distinguish a melody, and at least 60 percent of the lyrics.

"Alone I Break" establishes an infectious rhythm (all the songs in fact have strong rhythmic beats), and it has a clear melodic line. You can rage with this one, too, if you are so inclined, and in truth we feel a measure of empathy with the singer's feelings.

Despairing yet defiant

He is despairing yet defiant: "I will make it go away, can't be here no more . . . But now I see the times they change, leave me nothing . . . I have lived the best I can, does that make me not a man?"

"No One's There" gives us a taste of that "Untouchables" feeling with its hopeless and agonized lyrics: "You and me, we have no faces/ They don't see us anymore? Oh, I wish that I could die . . . Where are you/ My soul is bleeding . . . Trapped inside me for all time."

Periods of steady, relentless drumbeats are interspersed with haunting guitar riffs that give our ears a break, and our hearts a chance to catch up.

Most of the songs in "Untouchables" are like that, as a matter of fact, where we can hear Davis singing more conventionally before transforming into a growling and raging persona.

"We've raised the bar on this one," he says. "There are new elements that come from working on the movies and a lot of different flavors to Korn. It's a little bit mellower. It's heavy, but it isn't the Korn definition of heavy. It is not heavy like Morbid Angel or some death metal. It is a different kind of heavy, but it is very, very heavy."

Sincerity

Indeed, what we noticed at once when listening to this album is the band's sincerity in their music. They're not ranting and raving just because it's what a metal band does, but because they really have issues to rage about.

They say that this is their form of therapy, and we can hear that in their works. Their music becomes a form of catharsis not only for the band, but for listeners as well.

"I don't like painting flowers in my music," says Davis. "I like painting guts and pain. I am not afraid to explore myself and dig deep in my songs. I'm a human being and every human being has problems. I just chose to deal with the dark things in my life in music."

We may not always like the way Korn goes about it, but we can certainly understand it.

'LORD OF THE RINGS' ON VIDEO

AFTER a successful theatrical release in which it grossed $300 million worldwide, "Lord of the Rings" is now available on VHS, VCD and DVD from C-Interactive. Based on the best-selling novel of John Tolkien, "LOTR" traces the journey of young hobbit Frodo and his friends as they try to prevent Sauron, the dark Lord of Mordor from ruling Middle Earth and enslaving its people.The movie stars Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Liv Tyler, Cate Blanchett and Hugo Weaving.

Bohol beckons with beaches, festivals and nature

(Conclusion)

A NOTE on Alona Beach: It is a four-kilometer strip of white sand dotted by coconut trees and beautiful resorts owned mostly by foreigners married to Boholanos. Alona Beach was named after the actress Alona Alegre, after she went filming in that area.

There are two beach resorts named after Alona: the Alona Kew Beach Resort, where I stayed overnight, and Alona Palm Beach, which has 12 beautiful cottages and a restaurant built and designed by its owner, Marcel Brunan, a Swiss married to a Boholana.

There were painting competitions on Water Environment themes. There were 13 winners, mostly students of fine arts from the local university. An international youth/scouts eco-cultural peace camp was also held from

Mandy Navasero

July 16 to 22, during which the Omni artists headed by Al Perez taught painting to kids.

Guitar music festival

The sail-painting competition was held at the Alona Kew Beach Resort. That night, there was a guitar music festival at the Church of the Assumption in Dawis, Panglao. At the elevated portion of the altar, the amazing duo of German folk guitarists Bertholt and Gisela Lied (from the same town as Hans Schoof) performed.

New York-based Michael Dadap played classical pieces to the delight of the audience. The

FOLK guitarists Bertholt and Gisela Lied from Wiesbaden, Germany.

Andres Bonifacio Chorale Group rendered patriotic songs.

Participants in the International Music for Peace show held at the Tagbilaran Auditorium included the Loboc Children's Choir, the Andres Bonifacio Chorale, Noel Cabangon, Gary Granada, Bayang Barrios, Dimlao Children's Rondalla, UST and PWU Ethnic Ensemble, and the Earth Savers Dreams Ensemble.

SAIL-PAINTING tilt's second prize winner, "Open Your Eyes" by Dave Ramos.

FELIX Balio won third prize with his entry, "Preserve Mother Nature."

SATURDAY Special

LEE. "The kind of sexy I like doesn't come from wearing revealing clothes, but from nature."

Coco Lee sets her sights on fans in China

By Jonathan Ansfield

BEIJING—"What part of you is the hottest, Coco—and why?"

A steamy question even by the standards of China's sensationalist celebrity media, but not too hot for pop diva Coco Lee, in Beijing to tape an awards show for China MTV.

Mainstream appeal

While the Chinese-American songstress, 27, is idolized in China as the first Asian singer to gain mainstream appeal in the United States, she has yet to hook many of China's syrupy pop fans with her tunes inflected with rhythm and blues, hip-hop and soul.

The curvy, apple-cheeked siren—with more than a dozen, mostly Mandarin, albums to her name—was more than happy to let a new generation of carnivorous Chinese reporters get their nibbles.

She didn't blush. She barely batted an eye.

"I myself never feel that I'm sexy. If people call me cute, I am happier," she responded in Mandarin.

A phenomenon in Taiwan, Lee's big break in the United States was an Oscar nomination for the theme song to blockbuster movie "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." She performed the song at last year's Oscars to an audience of about a billion television viewers.

Sheer daring

Pundits compare her soft hush to Mariah Carey, her jaw-dropping moves to Britney Spears and her sheer daring to Christina Aguilera. She shares a producer with Jennifer Lopez, has toured with Ricky Martin and sung a duet with Julio Iglesias.

Lee's debut US album, "Just No Other Way" in February 2000, reportedly sold one million copies.

Her rendezvous with the mainland China media spoke volumes about the tough job facing the budding international starlet in China, where she is much better known as pin-up material than a singer and karaoke favorite.

Lee giggled, shimmied and cooed her way through pre-awards interviews, her hair dyed flaming ginger-red styled in soft-permed pigtails, like a toy doll.

"I'm still a, you know, a silly girl . . . a big kid," she said.

"What do you think is sexy, Coco?," persisted one reporter.

"Who do you think is sexy?" chimed another.

"The kind of sexy I like doesn't come from wearing revealing clothes, but from nature," she said, citing as an example Gong Li, the iconic leading lady of Chinese cinema.

"Gong Li can dress very conservatively, but you look at her and you feel, wah, very sexy." Twenty-four hours later, Lee bent to the whims of ogling cameras, striking poses and showing skin in a show that can be seen by around one billion mainlanders on China Central Television, MTV's local partner.

COCO/ p. E2

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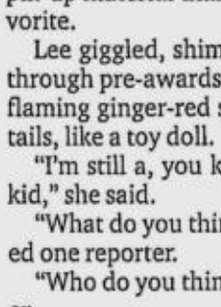

fig. A

Aug. 10, 2002

Patient known as "Serial Downloader" has escaped asylum. Found plans under his bed to download zed logos in mass quantities in order to become 21,849th downloader today and win Intel Sound Morpher (fig. A). Plans to eventually win weekly and monthly prizes from zed Logo Loco (fig. B). He must be stopped. Must type HELP LOGOLOCO and send to 288 to find out more. Posted reward for his capture -- 50 pesos if alive. 500,000 if dead.

fig. B

To join zed Logo Loco, type **JOIN LOGOLOCO <name>/<address>/<birthdate (mmddyy)>/<gender>** and send to **288**. Type **HELP LOGOLOCO** and send to **288** for more info. Or type **RANDOMLOGO** and send to **288** to get a random list of keywords of logos. This promotion is open to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1351, series of 2002

The movies they're making

By Nestor U. Torre

POPULAR stars Goldie Hawn and Susan Sarandon are great when they're acting on their own, but they're even better together. In "The Banger Sisters," they finally get their chance to "bounce" off each other, and the result is a rollicking frolic with a dramatic undercurrent.

Former rock groupies

In the film, Susan and Goldie play two best friends and former rock groupies. When they reunite after 20 years, they discover that one of them is still rocking along, while the other has become a socialite who is bent on hiding her colorful and disreputable past. Expectedly, their friendship is threatened by their now conflicting priorities in life.

Meanwhile, fans of acclaimed Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou ("Not One Less") will be delighted to know that he has come up with a new movie, "Happy Times"—an intimate broad comedy about human nature, love and the pursuit of happiness.

For his part, Pierce Brosnan plays James Bond anew in "Die Another Day," the 20th installment in the most profitable movie franchise of all time. This time around, 007 has to unmask a traitor and prevent a war of catastrophic consequences.

Amazing new weapon

Hot on the trail of a passel of villains, Bond travels from Korea to Hong Kong, Cuba and Iceland, where he experiences first-hand the power of an amazing new weapon, ultimately leading to a climactic confrontation with his main nemesis in Korea, where it all began.

In "Swimfan," new teen star Jesse Bradford is a high-school senior who has everything going for him—a great girlfriend, a swimming scholarship to Stanford University, etc.

Unfortunately, a new girl in town gets a hot crush on him, and pursues him to the point of obsession—and our young hero's life begins to unravel.

Wild bachelor party

That's similar to the plotline of another new film, "A Guy Thing," with Jason Lee playing the young protagonist: After a wild bachelor party, Lee wakes up in bed with his fiancee's cousin (Julia Stiles).

Desperate to keep his fiancee from finding out what may or may not be the truth, he tells a series of increasingly bigger lies. Soon, his lies spiral out of control, and his life becomes a series of comical misunderstandings.

In "XXX," Vin Diesel plays an underground thrill seeker who is being pursued by the law. Playing a government agent, Samuel L. Jackson forces Diesel to infiltrate a top-secret Russian crime ring, to avoid going to prison.

New breed

The film's director, Rob Cohen, also megged "The Fast and the Furious," the movie that made Diesel a star. With "XXX," Cohen hopes to repackage Diesel as "a new breed of secret agent."

Finally, in "The Bourne Identity," Matt Damon stars in an espionage thriller for the first time in his career. Damon plays an amnesiac who is rescued at sea. Although completely without identity or memory, he possesses extraordinary fighting skills that hint at a dangerous past.

DAMON. Stars in his first spy thriller, "The Bourne Identity."

Disoriented

Thrust into the present, he is disoriented and has to figure everything out. He senses that there are people who are out to kill him, so he practically forces a woman to take him to Paris. She begins a journey that changes her life forever.

Why are so many people determined to eliminate Damon's character? The answer eventually leads all the way to CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

SARANDON AND HAWN. Cast as longtime friends and former rock groupies in "The Banger Sisters."

BROSNAN. Plays James Bond anew in "Die Another Day."

DIESEL. Infiltrates a Russian crime ring in "XXX."

'Happy Times' is a bittersweet comedy

By Sheila Norman-Culp

NEW YORK—China's most celebrated director turns his unerring gaze upon marriage—or at least the frantic pursuit of it—as a poor, middle-aged bachelor desperately seeks the comfort of a wife in the wryly comic "Happy Times."

Award-winning films

Zhang Yimou, who gave Chinese superstar Gong Li her first starring role and directed such award-winning films as "Raise the Red Lantern" and "Not One Less," turns to the subject that will soon transfix a generation of Chinese men: the lack of women.

Fiftysomething Zhao (Zhao Benshan) has one goal left in life: Pedaling his bike around town, wearing his one nice shirt, carrying flowers he found in the garbage, he seeks a mate. And he isn't picky. He sets his sights on a corpulent shrew (Dong Lihua), who proves once and for all that gold-diggers need not be young, pretty, skinny or sweet.

Eager to impress, Zhao promises her that of course he can pay for a $50,000 wedding—and now he has to come through.

ZHAO Benshan and Dong Jie in Zhang Yimou's latest film.

Along with his best friend Li (Li Xuejian), he hatches a plan to refurbish an abandoned bus in a local nature preserve and charge lovers for using the "Happy Times Hotel." Several couples try it, but the plan fails because of Zhao's stubborn insistence that everyone keep the bus doors open.

Hotel manager

Hearing that Zhao is a hotel manager, the much-divorced girlfriend pushes him to employ her blind stepdaughter Wu Ying (Dong Jie) as a masseuse. Zhao cannot refuse or the marriage would be off, and since authorities have carted away his very popular bus, he has to find a new location for his "hotel."

In the next 24 hours, the alleged bride-to-be makes Snow White's stepmother look like a saint. The whole courtship was a ruse to get the girl off her hands.

Zhao ends up paying his friends to get massages from the 18-year-old blind girl in a makeshift "hotel" he builds in an abandoned factory. No wife, no money, no wedding in sight, just a deep kindness and affection between the sturdy, well-meaning working man and the waifish, undernourished girl.

Zhao, a former folk theater actor, is one of China's most recognized faces. With dead-on comic timing, his endearing portrayal of the Everyman Zhao is the heart of "Happy Times." The audience knows Zhao is not getting married, his friends know, the witch who is two-timing him knows, but the ever-hopeful Zhao soldiers on, an inspiration to all.

Constant fibs

Truth is, despite constant fibs enhancing his job status, Zhao's kindness and concern for others show that he would make a wonderful husband, and in a land where the male-female ratio was not so skewered, he would indeed find "happy times."

Zhang is not afraid to let a bittersweet comedy speak volumes about his homeland.

Released by Sony Pictures Classics, "Happy Times" runs 106 minutes. In Mandarin with English subtitles. Two and one half stars. *AP*

Sharon Cuneta celebrates 25 years in show business

SHARON Cuneta turns silver—and with a big shebang, a mega-musical journey.

CUNETA. Important milestone.

To celebrate this important milestone in her multimedia show biz career, Megastar Sharon Cuneta returns to where it all began—her songs.

Singing, after all, is Ms Mega's first love.

"I can give up acting, but not singing," Sharon explains. "Even when I'm old and gray, and in my rocking chair, I can still sing to my grandchildren!"

As a 12-year-old hopeful, Shawie made a simple request to her parents, that she be allowed to record a lilting ballad entitled "Tawag ng Pag-ibig," from her first album ever, "DJ's Pet," under the Sunshine label (Vicor).

First guesting

"I distinctively remember my first guesting for the promo of the song 'Mr. DJ,'" Sharon recalls, wistfully. "It was on 'Student Canteen,' back in 1978."

And when the opening melody of 'Mr. DJ" was played, Sharon heard a gasp, a murmuring in the gallery, among the members of the studio audience.

"It was then I realized that I had something special," Sharon beams.

Since then, she has captured the hearts of millions of fans with her hit albums like "For Broken Hearts Only," "Sharon Sings Valera," "Sharon Movie Themes," "Si Sharon at si Canseco," "Kapantay ay Langit," and "All I Ever Want."

These albums spawned record breaking songs like "High School Life," "Kahit Maputi na ang Buhok Ko," "Santo Niño," "Ewan," "Kahit Konting Pagtingin," "Ikaw," "Sana'y Wala nang Wakas," "Tubig at Langis," "Both Sides Now" and her latest, "Where's the Good in Goodbye?"

Fascination

Little did they know then that this childhood fascination would blossom into an unparalleled career in entertainment, encompasing all forms of media, from recording to the movies, from television to advertising.

Despite her triumphs in these different fields of endeavor, music has always been her most enduring passion. She admits that the lure of the concert stage has always been the most challenging, and therefore the most rewarding.

"That's why when they decided to call this the Mega-Event, I became nervous," Shawie confesses. "My stomach is turning just thinking and talking about it," she laughs.

The Mega-Event, which will be staged at the Araneta Coliseum on Aug. 16 and 17, will aim to capture in a nutshell the amazing, technicolor, 25-year music career of the Megastar, from her "Mr. DJ" days to her reign as Queen of movie theme songs ("Bituing Walang Ningning," remember?); from her Aliw, Tinig and Awit awards to her platinum-comeback as producer of "When I Love" (under her own Mega Music Label), and on to her most recent adventures as an "international" recording star with BMG's "All I Ever Want."

Latest CD

Her latest CD, in fact, has reached No. 20 on the Top 30 Charts of HMV, a hip music store in Hong Kong. "In Your Eyes," a cut from "All I Ever Want" and her duet with Cantopop superstar Andy Lau, debuted at No. 8 on the charts of RTHK, Hong Kong's No. 1 radio station. Her Mega Concert at the 12,000-seater-Hong Kong Coliseum last May 12 was just as memorable because it broke house records!

A joint production of Artist House and ABS-CBN, "The Mega Event" marks Sharon's first time to perform with a 62-pieace orchestra, the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra. Directing the Megastar are two of the most respected names in the local entertainment industry: concert/TV director Johnny Manahan and musical director Ryan Cayabyab. Also joining Sharon are Martin Nievera, Louie Ocampo and some surprise guests.

Tickets are available at all SM Ticketmet outlets (911-5555).

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Carlo Muñoz likes surprising his loved ones

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

HE caught our attention as the dutiful son in the popular series of PLDT commercials. In real life, he plays responsible brother to actor Leandro. ABS-CBN's latest babyface, Carlo Muñoz, is the son his mom can rely on, but he's no mama's boy.

"I'm not a spoiled brat. My siblings and I are all responsible, but I'm the closest to my mom. I deal with my own problems and I don't bother my mom anymore," he shares.

What's the sweetest thing he's done for his mom? "Shouldering the expenses for my youngest brother's education."

He doesn't have a relationship with anyone right now. He says he's just waiting for the right girl. "My number one qualification is a good sense of humor. Someone who can carry on a good conversation. She has to know how to stand up for herself, for her rights as a woman. She should be able to survive without me. I want somebody who's simple. I'm not looking for the extraordinary type. I'm really attracted to petite girls, though. And she has to have a nice smile."

Though he claims to be approachable and easy to talk to, he admits that he has to learn how to control his temper. "Sometimes, especially in traffic, *bigla na lang umiinit ang ulo ko.* But I'm a romantic, too. My ex-girlfriend used to call me super-sweet.

"I like surprising people, especially my girlfriend. *Biglang may darating na* gift pack *sa* office *niya.* I really don't do special things, I guess I just do them more often."

A1's new album

One of the talented groups to emerge from the UK scene in years, A1 has won MTV awards and the prestigious Brit award for Best British Newcomer in February 2001.

A1. Whittled their choices down to 14 songs.

A1 bandmates write their own material and in autumn of 2001, they wrote 60 songs for their latest album. Whittling their song choices down to 14, A1 spent the first quarter of 2002 recording them.

Their song "Caught in the Middle" entered the charts at No. 2, ending up as their biggest radio hit to date.

Ian Veneracion romances the stage

Ian Veneracion recently ventured into stage acting as Crisostomo Ibarra in Artisté Philippines' staging of Jose Rizal's "Huwag Mo Akong Salangin," with Jonas Santos directing.

Although the concept of combining dance and acting was well-intentioned, the production looked more like a high-school play put together by a group of theater aficionados. Veneracion was the lone saving grace of the show. He remained focused on his character and delivered a better-than-expected performance.

Aside from doing TV work, Veneracion is also a serious painter, having had two successful solo exhibits in the last three years.

'Morning Girls' is picking up fast

"Talk TV" was losing out to the sister tandem of Janice and Gelli, so it had to be replaced.

So, the think tank of Channel 2 got together Pops Fernandez, Kris Aquino and Zsa Zsa Padilla and boom! "Morning Girls" came into existence. Admittedly, the first few episodes were real "tests" for the triumvirate, but things have now been put into proper perspective.

Like the recent episode that featured the fast-rising Rexona Boys, where the three hosts were given equal exposure interviewing the five gorgeous hunks, and each of them had total control of her segment.

We think that the three hosts should be made part of the show's brainstorming sessions, so they can choose topics they will have fun showcasing.

Ricky Davao gets plum role in 'Insiang'

In the stage version of Lino Brocka's "Insiang," Ricky Davao plays the plum role of Dado, the deceitful hoodlum who rapes his lover's daughter.

"Often, it's more challenging to play a bad guy. When the chance to play Dado onstage fell on my lap, *hindi ko na pinakawalan.* It's a dream role," Davao exclaims.

"Insiang" is Mario O'Hara's stage adaptation of his award-winning screenplay for Tanghalang Pilipino, and the play opened on Aug. 9 at the CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute. Playing the role of Insiang is newcomer Sheenly Vee Gener, and Malou De Guzman is Insiang's mother, Pacing.

The wings of Marge Enriquez's soul

Journalist, dancer and New Age practitioner Marge Enriquez took to the higher ground last Aug. 8 at the Onstage Theater in Greenbelt in the multi-media dance concert, "Wings of Soul."

Enriquez's constant affirmations about attracting only the best people to her life paid off. She was able to gather a most illustrious creative team to put the much-anticipated show together—Bart Guingona, Douglas Nierras, Tonton Santos, Inno Sotto, Impy Pilapil, Rachy Cuna, Jun de Leon, Patrick Rosas.

Enriquez also sought out singer Tex Ordoñez to share the stage with her in a special number.

Happy birthday, Tita Ethel!

Ethel Ramos, one of our most well-loved colleagues, celebrated her birthday last Aug. 1. Year after year, Tita Ethel's birthday has remained one of the most well-attended events in local tinseltown.

Tita Ethel is the power PR woman behind all of Star Cinema's movies and many of ABS-CBN's top-rating shows. Aside from being an entertainment columnist, she has also been Aga Muhlach's manager for a long time now. May all your birthday wishes come true!

Soap opera stars do the network *rigodon*

In the end, it all boils down to finding work. For the past few months, we've seen a lot of actors in our popular soap operas "die" and later resurface on a competing channel to breathe life into another character.

Seems like it's the fad that whoever gets killed will receive an automatic offer from the rival station. Stars who used to play interesting characters on Channel 2 but are now seen on Channel 7 include Rita Avila, Raymond Bagatsing, Liza Lorena, Jay Manalo and Princess Punzalan.

Coco Lee . . .

Negligee

Offstage, she faced photographers in a half-transparent negligee.

"There are some people who don't like her because they think she's too affected," said a Chinese reporter. "But maybe that's a kind of openness that comes from her foreign roots."

Coco Lee, or Li Wen—or Coco Li Wen, as she calls herself—was born in Hong Kong, came of age in San Francisco, shot to fame in Taiwan and, after singing at the Oscars, is a celebrity on US websites.

The daughter of a doctor who still wants the starlet to finish medical school, Lee was signed into the music business after wowing a record company executive at an amateur talent contest

From p. E1

in Hong Kong.

To make it in the Taiwan market, the former teenage beauty queen had to learn the complex, four-tone Mandarin language from scratch.

Now, her largest growth market by far is mainland China, the world's most populous country with 1.3 billion people.

It has not been the easiest for her to crack. China has brighter stars who feel closer to home, while only big-city teens can appreciate her rap riffs.

Electronic

"Reporters joke about her behind. We say it's electronic. It's like someone put batteries in it," said television journalist Zhang Xuan. "Some say she's too Westernized." "Crouching Tiger, Hid-

COCO/ p. E3

E! picks sexiest female stars

By Nestor U. Torre

LOPEZ. The sexiest of them all.

ZETA-JONES. No. 11 on the list.

WHAT makes a woman sexy? Some show biz stars were recently asked by the E! entertainment channel to ponder that provocative question, and they came up with some even more tantalizing answers.

Annual survey

The context of the discussion on sensuality was the channel's annual survey on the 25 sexiest women in show business, the "findings" of which included these exceptionally pneumatic players:

For all of her obvious physical endowments, Pamela Anderson could manage only the 25th place. Well, at least she did better than Drew Barrymore, Renee Zellweger or Jennifer Jason-Leigh, who didn't even place at all.

In the 24th spot was a surprise winner, 32-year-old Gwen Stefani, followed by Emmy winner Sela Ward, and Gwyneth Paltrow, who got a special citation for having "the poise of Grace Kelly and the style of Audrey Hepburn." Do tell!

Alicia Keyes weighed in at 21, "not so much for her cleavage as for her aura." Fancy that! Skipping now, "Sex and the City's" Kim Catrall was cited for her "sense of freedom" and made the list despite the fact that she was over 40 years old.

Predictable choice

Cameron Diaz was a predictable choice at No. 17. Salma Hayek was next singled out for her "beauty and brains combination" (oh, really?), which enabled her to edge out *the* Julia Roberts, who for all of her superduperstardom could manage only No. 15. (And we thought power was erotic...)

Never mind, the survey respondents gushed over Julia's smile, her freshness, her being a regular person, and her unique appeal, which it described as a cross "between a chick and a broad." Figure that out!

Spontaneity

At No. 14, Penelope Cruz was deemed sexier than Roberts, due to her being "tight" and her sense of spontaneity.—Huh?

She was followed by "American Pie's" Shannon Elizabeth, Janet Jackson (those abs!), and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

There are people (aside from Michael Douglas) who would place Catherine at the very top of this "25th sexiest" list, but they obviously didn't prevail this year, when the more superstar-oriented voters held sway.

In fact, they thought that Madonna was sexier than Catherine! They liked the musical chameleon for her attitude, her sass, and her being an "icon" of the industry, and put her at No. 10—no kidding.

Others in the Top 10 included Beyonce Knowles of Destiny's Child, 5'11" supermodel Giselle, and Elizabeth Hurley.

Top five

The Top Five: "Sweet and sexy" Britney Spears, the "classic" "Charlize Theron, the "rebellious" and "edgy" Angelina Jolie, all hail Halle Berry, and, the sexiest of them all, La Gitara herself, Jennifer Lopez. Like we said, a generally glitzy and trend-oriented list.

The good thing was, in coming up with their subjective and trend-conscious choices, the respondents ticked off some of the elements that went into what they thought was a sexy show biz persona: Aura, sense of freedom, sass, "iconic" appeal, edgy quality—not helpful enough, right?

In more detailed interviews, some celebrities added these other attributes: "Outstanding" eyes, smile, skin, teeth, hair, nape, boobs, pretty feet, personality, confidence, smartness, sense of humor, and personal sense of style—!

Specific topics

The survey also did mini-polls on specific topics, like the sexiest stars over 50 years old. The finalists were Cher, Farrah Fawcett, Tina Turner, Goldie Hawn and Jane Seymour, and the winner, would you believe, was Goldie Hawn. Guess that "sense of humor" criterion worked for her in a big way, huh?

There was also a mini-poll on the sexiest star who'd been photographed in the nude, and the winner was Halle Berry.

So, to answer our original question: What makes a woman sexy? From the subjective and even contradictory results of E!'s survey, it looks like it depends on who's looking!

Coco Lee

From p. E2

den Dragon" has not helped that impression—the movie was seen in China as pandering to Western audiences.

Lee has tried to balance her act. Her top mainland hit has Peking Opera cadences and, during the awards show, she sang it opposite dancers in traditional costume, her hair pinned up with chopsticks.

"She's using Eastern shades to widen the mainland market," said Hu Wei, the Beijing marketing manager for Lee's music label, Sony Music.

Whether she can overcome China's problems with rampant piracy is another story. Lee's best-selling Sony album sold more than 1.5 million copies but fewer than 300,000 of them in Mainland China.

"Can your next album break the two million mark?" asked a reporter.

Anti-piracy cause

Lee pounced on the chance to stomp for the anti-piracy cause, staring down the television cameras as if to put counterfeit buyers at home on the spot.

"Japan!" she blurted, making a provocative comparison with China's main economic rival in the region. "Why is the Japanese market second in the world, even though their population is much less than ours in China? Because they don't have piracy." Lee complained earlier this year that piracy had cut her album sales by two-thirds in Taiwan, where bootleg CDs sell for the equivalent of just $1.40.

Reuters

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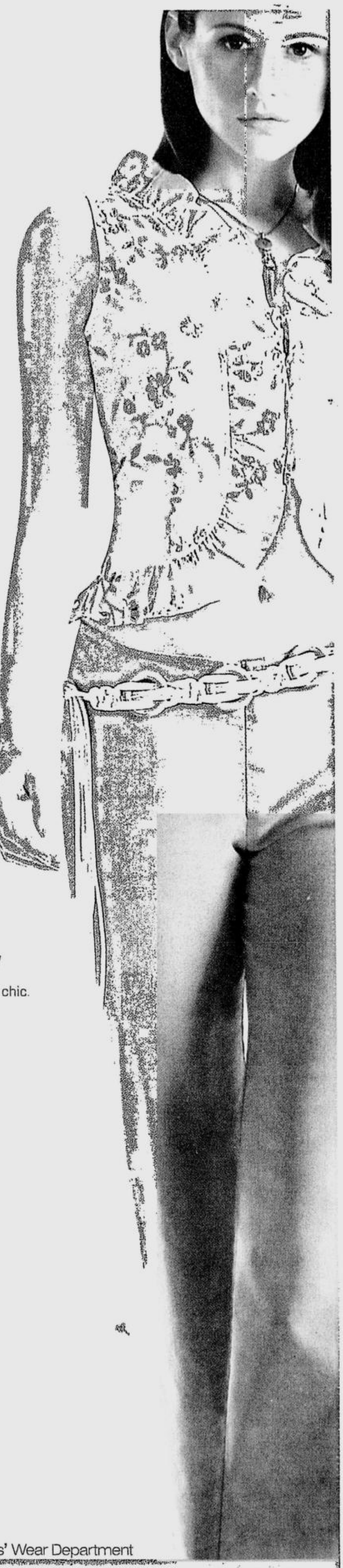
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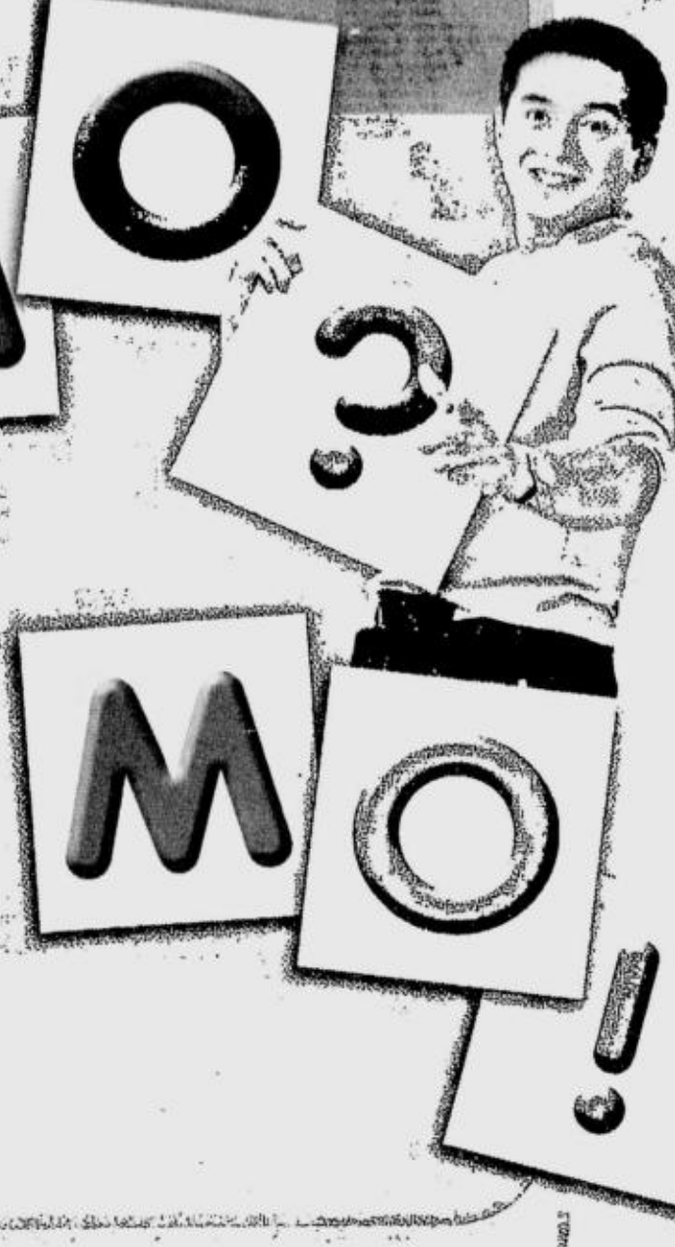

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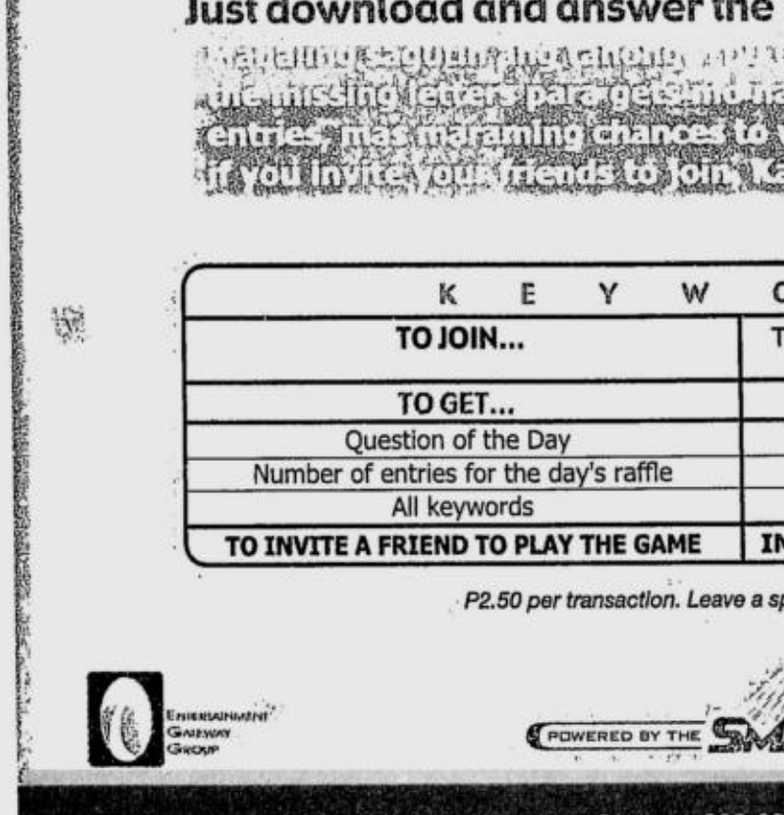

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SATURDAY Special

CHAN will play Passepartout, the wily thief portrayed in the original film by Mexican comic Cantinflas. - AFP

Jackie Chan to star in 'Around the World' remake

LOS ANGELES—Hong Kong action film hero Jackie Chan is to star in a Hollywood remake of the classic globetrotting adventure "Around the World in Eighty Days," Paramount Pictures said recently.

Classic hero

Martial arts stunt star Chan, 48—who made his name in Tinseltown on such pictures as "Rush Hour" with Chris Tucker and "Shanghai Noon" with Owen Wilson, says he is looking forward to becoming Jules Verne's classic hero.

"I am extremely excited about making a new version of 'Around The World In Eighty Days,'" Chan said in a statement issued by producers Paramount Pictures.

"This movie will provide me an opportunity to do many things I have never done before on film. It will certainly be a lot of fun to make," added the star of a string of Hong Kong films who is fast becoming a global phenomenon.

The latest screen adaptation of the story of English gentleman Phileas Fogg and his motley band of cohorts is to be directed by Frank Coraci, who directed Adam Sandler's pictures "The Wedding Singer" and "The Waterboy."

Wily thief

Chan will play Passepartout, a wily thief who is taken in by nobleman and inventor Fogg to help him complete his voyage in the allotted time in order to win a wager.

Chan's longtime Hong Kong-based managers, Willie Chan and Solon So, will be the film's executive producers while "Silence of the Lambs" and Philadelphia" producer Edward Saxon has also signed on, Paramount said.

Paramount chairman Sherry Lansing said the studio had acquired the US domestic distribution rights for the film, while Summit Entertainment was selling the international rights.

The last celluloid version of the story was shot in 1956 by Elizabeth Taylor's onetime husband Mike Todd and starred British actor David Niven as Phileas Fogg and Mexican-born comic Cantinflas as Passepartout. *AFP*

'K-19: The Widowmaker' features excellent performances

By David Germain

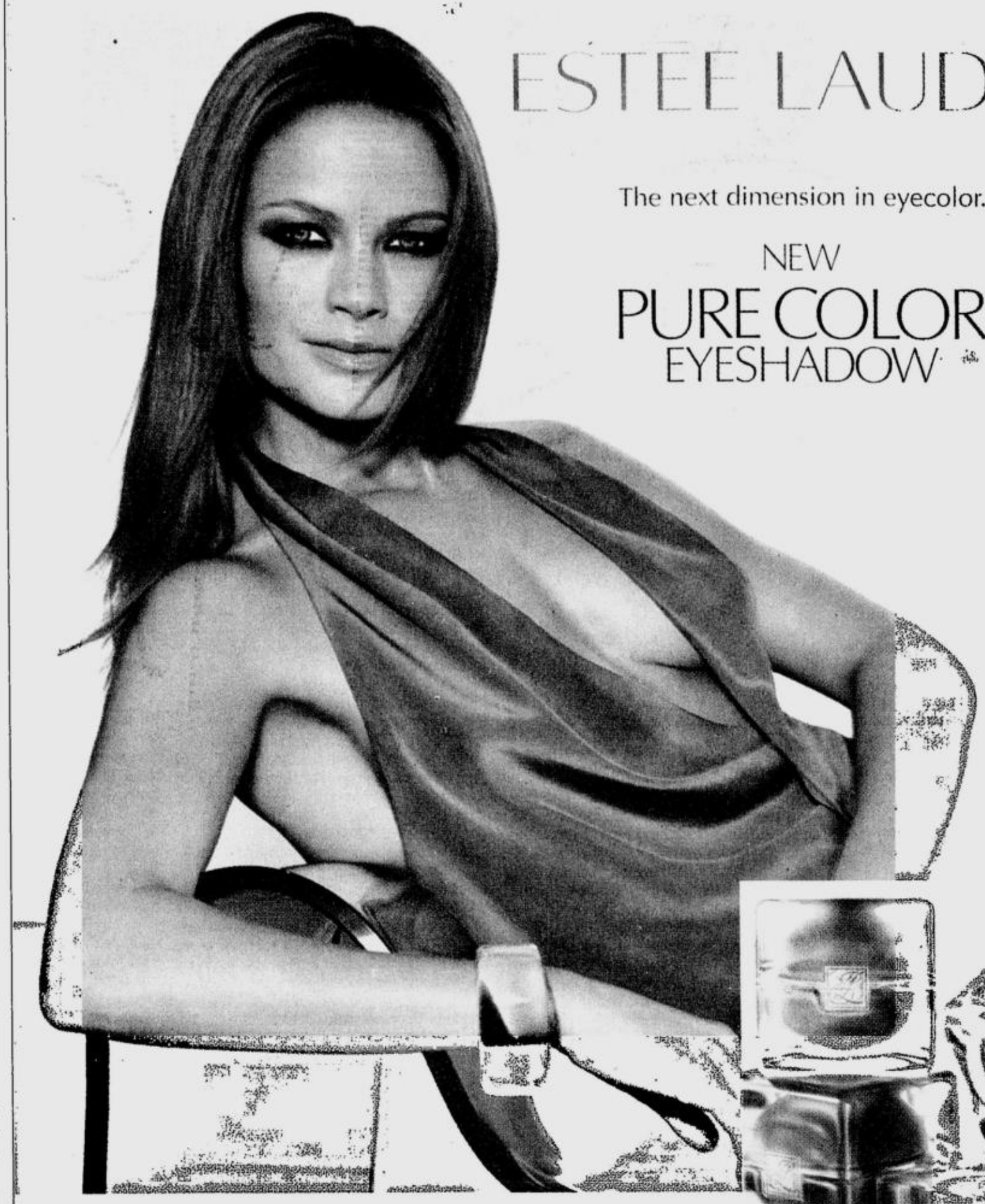
LOS ANGELES—The Cold War submarine adventure "K-19: The Widowmaker" is a well-made movie that many people just won't like.

On the plus side: It offers excellent performances by Harrison Ford (despite a miscalculated effort to cop a Russian accent) and Liam Neeson; artful direction by Kathryn Bigelow, who delivers a palpable atmosphere of cloistered tension among men under extreme duress; and a much smarter-than-average sense of history than the typical summer thriller.

Down side

On the down side: "K-19" is a Cold War relic told from a Soviet perspective, not terribly

K-19/ p. F2



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Jane Fonda reinvents herself anew

By Nestor U. Torre

YOUNG moviegoers may not be all that familiar with Jane Fonda, who was a major star in the '70s and '80s. But older viewers know that she was one of the Hollywood's best actresses.

Ingenues

She started her show biz career by following in the footsteps of her father, Henry Fonda, playing standard bright-eyed romantic-comedy ingenues in movies like "Barefoot in the Park."

Later, however, she married New Wave French filmmaker Roger Vadim, and in 1968, radically changed her sweet image by doing a Brigitte Bardot in the futuristic sex romp, "Barbarella."

Eventually, she ended her marriage to Vadim, but she continued to go into unexpected directions in her career, revealing impressive range and depth. Her cinematic adventures were amply rewarded by the movie industry, which honored her with seven Academy Award nominations. She ended up winning two Oscars and an Emmy.

Another side

But there was another side to Jane Fonda that the public was exposed to during that time: the anti-war activist who used her celebrity to open people's eyes to what she perceived was the injustice of

the United States' war in Vietnam.

She was roundly criticized for her controversial stance, but she continued her protest, despite the negative effect it was having on her stellar career.

Then, in the '80s, a third Jane Fonda made her appearance: the aerobics "queen" who used her videotaped workouts to get the entire nation on a fitness craze.

Political front

When she stopped making feature films, Fonda became more active on the political front. Later, she decided to concentrate on issues affecting women. Her concern stemmed from her own personal problems as a woman—her battle against bulimia, her low self-esteem partly resulting from her distant relationship with her father, her unhappy marriages, etc.

Fonda used her sizable fortune to finance initiatives that worked for women's health and gender studies. She put up a children's camp that helped girls build up their self-esteem. She was a goodwill ambassador of the U.N. Population Fund. And she founded and chaired the Georgia Campaign for Pregnancy Prevention.

Activist-philanthropist

From an anti-war activist, she became an activist-philanthropist, using her money to help deserving women's causes everywhere. She gave $1.3 M to the Teen Services Clinic at Atlanta's Grady memorial Hospital. She donated $12.5 M to establish Harvard University's Center for Gender and Education. And she gave $2 M to Emory University's School of Medicine for the Jane Fonda Center, dedicated to reproductive health.

Fonda may no longer be visible on the big screen, but she's an inspiring role model for women of all ages. That beats evanescent show biz stardom, in our book!

Hollywood's top sister acts remembered

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

THE LEE sisters started out in vaudeville, too. Mother Gypsy focused her attention on pretty blonde Baby June, while sister Rose merely helped her dress up and look good.

The overly ambitious mother failed to notice that Rose had potential, and when given the chance, she grabbed the attention of the audience with a brand-new interpretation of the striptease. The once vulgar dance was turned into a classy rendition, during which Rose bared minimal flesh and kept the rest of her body a mystery. She introduced class, teased and taunted agitated men, and kept the audience clapping for more.

Trendsetter

She rose to the top of her field as Gypsy Rose Lee, a trendsetter and an icon of the striptease act.

Sister Baby June had relative success in Hollywood as June Havoc, a blonde femme fatale in the Jean Harlow tradition. And Mother Gypsy has won immortality as the feisty, overly ambitious but loving mom in the popular musical "Gypsy," one of the most challenging and coveted musical roles for any actress over 40.

The most popular of the Hollywood sisters were brunette Olivia de Havilland and blonde Joan Fontaine, both photogenic but differently beautiful to behold on the screen. They were born of British parents in Tokyo. Their parents divorced when Olivia was five years old. The mother brought her daughters to California and immediately capitalized on Olivia's dark beauty. The ambitious mother noted Olivia's acting talent early on, when the elder daughter won fine notices for a college production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Hollywood quickly beckoned, but Olivia

OLIVIA AND JOAN. The rivalry between the two sisters is still gossip material.

for a spell became "accustomed to standing on the sidelines looking pretty." Even in her many films with dashing Errol Flynn, all she had to do was look demure. She was also billed below the title while the macho Tazmanian actor was billed above it.

Success

Her mother knew Olivia was meant for better things and worked hard to attain that success. This was finally proven when she played Melanie in "Gone with the Wind," a role so saccharine that many critics wondered how Olivia was able to breathe sympathetic humanity into the part. The mother continued to look after Olivia's career.

She gave little mind to Joan, who had taken her stepfather's surname. While the mother worked on Olivia's career, she belittled Joan's obvious interest, often making fun of her posture. But Joan was not to be deterred, and worked her way up the Hollywood ladder.

Joan was wasted in many roles until "Rebecca" came along. Her pristine and simple beauty worked very well against the dark intensity of Laurence Olivier and garnered her an Oscar nomination. Olivia finally brought home an Oscar for "To Each His Own." Not to be outdone, Joan was then again noted for her fine performance in "Jane Eyre" opposite screen titan Orson Welles. She brought home an Oscar too for "Suspicion."

At loggerheads

Soon it was bruited about that the sisters were at loggerheads. Gossip was rife that they hated each other, especially since their mother clearly favored the interests of Olivia over Joan's. Olivia won her second Academy Award for "The Heiress" with young Montgomery Clift. She was also praised for her performance in "The Snake Pit."

Joan was nominated for her second Oscar for "The Constant Nymph." Thus, the talented and beautiful sisters scored a first Hollywood family success: Each had Oscars. The sisters continued to reign in Hollywood, although Olivia was temporarily in "retirement" when she filed a suit against powerful Warner Brothers for breach of contract, and won the support of the Screen Actors' Guild.

After the case was settled, Joan stated, "Hollywood owes Olivia a great deal." She also denied the alleged feud between them.

The rivalry between the two is still gossip material to this day but it is said that Joan has better business sense and has done very well with her investments and savings. When Olivia was in need of financial assistance not too long ago, younger sister Joan immediately came to help. Pray that Mama Havilland finally approves of Joan!

We are family

(Conclusion)

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

CLARA, whatever it is that our family has given you, know that it is there for you to take. Don't go through the rest of your life wondering how easy it would have been, had you the car of your dreams. Because that which will afford you to have it has already been given to you—you just need to find it!

Good days

Our family is not perfect, far from it. But it's the only family we've got—and all we'll ever need. We've had our good days—and rotten ones, too. I believe, God has given us more of the good, so that the memory of them can tide us over the bad times. He allowed the rotten to come only because He wanted us to savor the fullness of the best still ahead of us—especially for you.

Lately, I've been trying to explain certain things to you about our family. It was my way of attempting to repair whatever damage the uniqueness of our family and the wrong decisions I have made, may have wrought on you. I was pleasantly surprised to find out that there was no damage to repair—and even if there had been, that you have repaired them yourself.

There was a time when you had questions I didn't have answers to. Like, you wondered why I'm Carvajal and you're Tagasa. And, if Bong was your brother, when did I give birth to him? You asked what family meant. Why was it that the father of your sister is not your dad, and the mother of your brother is not your mom? I was at a total loss for words. For lack of anything to say, I told you that you would learn when you got older. Little did I realize that you had.

Role to play

I shed quiet tears recently—when you told me it was only after my operations that you finally felt you had a role to play in this family. I'm so glad that you took on the responsibility to watch over my diet and my schedule for taking medicines with a maturity I once thought you were still too young to possess. Your protectiveness is refreshing. Your solicitude is a comfort. Your love, expressed like rain gently falling on the last days of summer, makes my heart flutter with pride and joy.

Clara, I have a favor to ask: Please take the initiative to deepen and strengthen your bond with Mommy Ann and Kuya Porky. Time will come when I will no longer be there for you. When that time comes, I hope you'll be there for each other.

All three of you are my most precious jewels. Your Mommy Ann and Kuya Porky have turned out very well, considering the circumstances that have made our lives so colorful. I'm thankful to God that, despite everything, they are victorious.

Resilient

Others made of lesser stuff have become drug addicts and emotional wrecks, but they have proven what stuff our family is made of—resilient, tenacious, forbearing lovers of life. Indeed, with all my shortcomings as a mom, they are shining medals I will always be proud to wear.

As for me and your dad, we are in the process of unraveling our problems, along with discerning what God's plan is in our individual lives. Whatever it is, your best interests are in both our hearts.

We are two shells of the same oyster—and you are our pearl. Time will come when nobody will know what happened to the shells, but the pearl shall go on to be encrusted in gold to adorn the neck of a queen.

When that time comes, I may already be up there in the skies, but I shall smile.

Viewers suggest how TV game and quiz shows can be improved

By Leia Torre

(Conclusion)

"ANOTHER aspect I don't like is how the more popular shows make money for their sponsors by taking advantage of the fees they charge for every text message and phone call. Watching these shows will turn out to be a waste of time, unless something is done to make them more reasonable." *—Liby Norman Limoso, 21.*

Smarter hosts and contestants

"These shows could be greatly improved by having both smarter hosts and contestants. Not just any well-known person will do. He should make sense and know when to stop cracking jokes that aren't funny anyway.

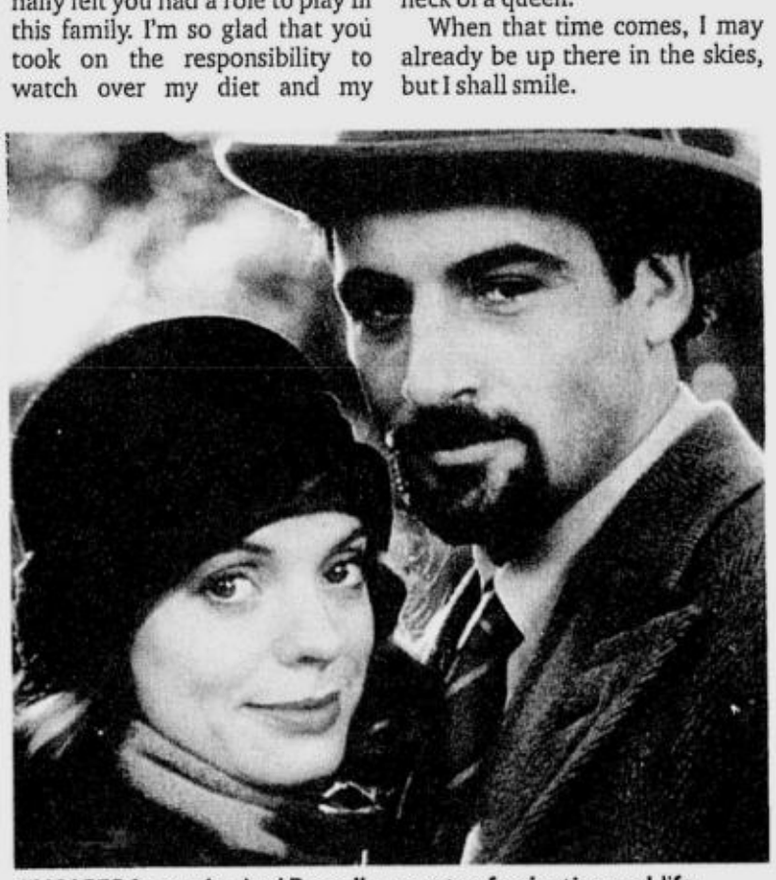
"They also shouldn't irritate viewers with their sarcastic laughter and they shouldn't refer to their personal lives all the time.

"Some shows are too hard on the contestants. Hosts make fun of the contestants, especially those who are rather desperate for quick, honest cash and would do anything to get it, even if it means being made fun of. *Nakakaawa minsan." —Janice Ong, 17.*

Unfair

"Weed out the silly shows whose sole purpose seems to be to make fun of contestants. Those shows don't have any scruples, and it's terrible that they can get away with what they are doing. Subjecting innocent people to uncomfortable costumes and humiliating experiences is not funny! It's unfair to those people, who are after all only looking for something that may change their luck.

"Another suggestion: be consistent. In 'Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?,' for example, the level of difficulty in the questions asked differs from person to person. This is more obvious when celebrity contestants walk away with big money after making mistakes that could have gotten a non-celebrity contestant kicked out of the show. It's very unfair."—*William Rivera, 23.*



"VOICES from a Locked Room" presents a fascinating real-life romance set in the 1930s' London music scene.

Hallmark Channel screens Sunday night hits for August

FOR the whole month of August, Hallmark Channel's Sunday night Big Movies showcase gathers four unique films, guaranteed to please movie buffs.

For viewers with a taste for controversy, there's "Power and Beauty," (with repeat screenings on Aug. 17, and 18 at 9 p.m.). It tells the riveting tale of Judith Exner, a charmed and charming debutante who gets ensnared in a web of lies.

Complex woman

Natasha Henstridge plays a complex woman who claims that she was the lover of legendary crooner Frank Sinatra and assassinated US President John F. Kennedy.

After her trysts with these American icons, she eventually got involved with a Chicago Mob boss. And that was only the beginning of her downward spiral.

"Voices From A Locked Room," which premieres Aug. 11, 9 p.m. (with repeat screenings on Aug. 12, 24, and 25), is a fascinating real-life romance set in the London music scene, circa 1930.

Jeremy Northam ("Happy," "Texas") is Philip Heseletine, an urbane music critic from the London Journal. He parries "disturbing, harassing" letters from classical composer (and frequent target of his scathing reviews) Peter Warlock, and finds unexpected love in lovely cabaret singer Lily Buxton—at the same time!

Literary classic

"Back to the Secret Garden," which premieres Aug. 18, 9 p.m. (with repeat screenings on Aug. 19 and 31), revisits a literary classic that is famous for its "powerful messages of hope and love."

The young curious children of "The Secret Garden," the beloved family classic, are now all grown up and blissfully married. They, in fact, have turned the Yorkshire estate they grew up in into a home for young war orphans. In this remarkable sequel, a new generation of children discovers the "illuminating secrets of life and love that await all those who enter "The Secret Garden."

This Hallmark masterpiece stars the Oscar-nominated veteran actress Joan Plowright.

"Mary Wesley's The Vacillations of Poppy Carew," which premieres Aug. 25, 9 p.m. (with a repeat screening on Aug. 26), is based on one of Mary Wesley's popular novels. It follows the romantic fortunes (and comic misfortunes) of Poppy Carew, an independent-minded and strong-willed young woman who gets involved with four different men, including a former lover, while organizing her father's funeral!

'K-19: The Widowmaker' features . . .

From p. F1

palatable for an egocentric American audience; it's well over two hours, a tough sell at multiplexes awash in brisk 90-minute popcorn flicks; and for all its suspense and selfless heroics, it's a bleak, dark story of misguided patriotism, supremacy at all costs to the point of self-destructive fanaticism, not exactly a mood-lifter in a post-Sept. 11 world.

All that said, this review's siding with the pluses, ranking "K-19" as a creditable lesser cousin of "Das Boot," the greatest of sub flicks.

Real accident

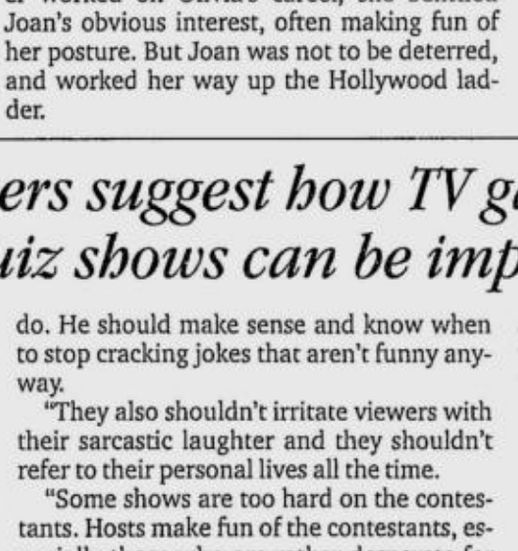
"K-19" is based on a real accident that befell an early Soviet nuclear submarine in 1961. Rushed into service and plagued by shoddy workmanship, the real K-19 came close to a Chernobyl-like meltdown in the North Atlantic when its reactor-cooling system sprang a leak.

The film begins with the Soviet Navy's frantic push to launch the K-19 as a show of force to counter the threat of new US subs that could carry nuclear missiles close to Russian shores.

Dissatisfied with K-19 Capt. Mikhail Polenin (Neeson), Soviet leaders demote him to executive officer and bring in hard-nosed Capt. Alexei Vostrikov (Ford) to ensure the vessel's readiness to fire a test missile on schedule in the Arctic Ocean.

Good soldier Polenin graciously pledges obedience to Vostrikov. But the crew, already whispering that K-19 is a cursed ship because of dry-dock mishaps, resents the switch.

Once at sea, Polenin tussles with Vostrikov when the new captain puts the K-19 through



FORD. Turns in one of his best performances.

reckless drills.

All in all, not a happy boat.

Reactor leak

Then, K-19 springs a reactor leak, sending the core temperature skyrocketing and threatening a meltdown. Vostrikov makes the painful decision to send men into the reactor room in 10-minute bursts to rig a makeshift cooling system, the men emerging burned and vomiting from fatal radiation exposure.

The crew ultimately reaches the point of mutiny when the ferociously patriotic Vostrikov seems to put Soviet honor and party submissiveness ahead of his men's lives.

Bigelow wisely holds Soviet politics to a minimum, keeping the film rooted in the claustrophobic personal story of men fearfully but bravely focusing on what's five feet in front of them.

She and her talented cast, including Peter Sarsgaard as an untested reactor officer, strike a graceful, understated balance between doom and duty, devotion and despair.

In one of his best performances, Ford personifies the steely demeanor expected of a Soviet naval commander, though the Russian accent he adopts fades in and out and borders on caricature at times.

Terrific

Neeson is terrific in a role that lets him rove from chipper to furious as he tries to shield the men from the hazards posed by his replacement.

The filmmakers meticulously reworked an old Soviet sub to create striking exterior shots of K-19. Some of the film was shot in Moscow, lending authenticity to scenes depicting the Soviet bureaucracy.

The real survivors of the K-19 disaster were ordered to keep mum for fear it would reflect poorly on Soviet might. The story did not come out until the early 1990s, after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The greatest achievement of "K-19: The Widowmaker" is as a testament to the crew members and the perils they faced, which went unsung for decades and has been generally unknown to most, until now.

"K-19: The Widowmaker," a Paramount release, runs 138 minutes. Three stars out of four.

AP

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-431 Series of 2002

GMA-7's 'Partners: Mel and Jay' celebrates its sixth year

By Jocelyn Valle

ANGELIKA dela Cruz, Karylle and Kyla are rehearsing at GMA 7's Studio 3, with musical director Tats Faustino and the "SOP" band, for "Partners: Mel and Jay," which is taping its sixth anniversary special.

Guest performers

Later, we find out that aside from opening the show, Angelika, Karylle and Kyla have one solo number each. Ditto for fellow guest performers Ogie Alcasid, Anna Fegi and Jaya. The six songs that they will be performing will serve as intros to the six sets of discussions that the talk show's hosts, Mel Tiangco and Jay Sonza, will be presiding over.

The special episode is therefore aptly titled "Six-sikan, Kwentuhan at Kantahan." Mel and Jay point out in their opening spiels that their guests have previously appeared on the program, and that the talk would center on what has happened in their lives since those appearances.

Commercial model Nancy Castiglione and singer Gladys Guevarra never thought that after appearing on "Mel and Jay," doors would open for them. They are regulars on GMA 7's shows (Nancy on "Kahit Kailan" and "Sana Ay Ikaw na Nga;" Gladys on "Eat Bulaga"). Nancy also played one of Piolo Pascual's girlfriends in the film, "I Think I'm In Love."

Beauty queen

Former beauty queen Nina Ricci, on the other hand, found love when she participated in a discussion titled "Kapag Babae ang Nanligaw," with, among others, Michael Flores, who's now her boyfriend.

Rustom Padilla, Joko Diaz and Wilma Doesn't were having problems with their respective love lives when they appeared on the show. Now, Rustom's marriage to Carmina Villaroel has been annulled; Joko has gotten married to a non-show biz girl; and Wilma's pregnant.

Dingdong Dantes, Tanya Garcia and Paolo Ballesteros were able to live up to expectations when they were singled out to make waves in the biz. Dingdong and Tanya's love team is the reason why "Sana Ay Ikaw na Nga" is popular. And Paolo is a mainstay on "Eat Bulaga," "Daddy Di Do Du" and "Kahit Kailan."

MEL AND JAY. Unbeatable chemistry.

Meanwhile, Ina Raymundo, Priscilla Almeda and Melanie Marquez are ready to revive their careers, after they focused for a time on family life (all three have foreigner partners, with whom they bore a child each).

Too bad for Joey Marquez, Jomari Yllana and Elizabeth Oropesa, since they've broken up with the partners they professed undying love for when they last appeared on "Mel and Jay."

Lucky stars

KC Montero, Arnell Ignacio and the Sex Bomb Dancers can only thank their lucky stars as they continue to fly high. KC is on "SOP" and MTV; Arnell hosts "K: The One-Million-Peso Videoke Challenge;" and Sex Bomb is the season's hottest dance group.

Mel and Jay have mastered the art of hosting a talk show. The tandem was born on radio 14 years ago and replicated its success on the small screen a few years later. They moved to Channel 7 in 1996 and have remained on top of the ratings game.

The hosts and their viewers are not the only ones who enjoy the program. The guests likewise relish their appearances on "Mel and Jay."

Jomari Yllana, for instance, shares that he practically grew up on the show. His first appearance on "Mel and Jay" was in 1996, along with the other Gwapings, Mark Anthony Fernandez and Eric Fructuoso. He's been back many times, discussing different topics. For instance, he broke the news of his marriage to Aiko Melendez on the show.

Ogie Alcasid remembers how many times he's been on the show: "Twice," he says, including the sixth anniversary episode. "The first one, anniversary *din*, two years ago *naman*. I was with Janno (Gibbs, his "small brother") and the topic was partnership."

The singer-actor shares that he gets to watch "Mel and Jay" when it has a special theme, like on Mother's Day and Father's Day. "*Maganda ang* chemistry *nila*," he remarks of the hosts. "Unbeatable."

Great Meal Deals SM Foodcourt
P49
Hen Lin Mami Dimsum House — Siopao Asado, 2 Sharksfin, 12oz Coke
Kamay Kainan — Adobo or Menudo, Pancit, Plain Rice
Wei-Chuan Foods — Fried Chicken, Plain Rice, Soup
P59
Goto King — Lugaw, Okoy, 16oz Softdrink
Bulalohan at Inihaw — Beef Steak, Vegetables, Rice, Softdrinks
Samurai Foods — Kamaboko Ramen, 1 Takoyaki
P69
Sizzling Plate — Spareribs, Java Rice and Mix Vegetables
Kimchi — Choice of Beef, Chicken, Rice, Soup, Togue, 8oz Iced Tea
Cindys — Sweet & Sour Pork, Rice, Soup, 8oz. Sago't Gulaman
P79
Lydia's Lechon — Paella, Pork Barbecue
Sandy's Cuisine — Beef Chili, Kangkong w/ Oyster Sauce
Ilonggo Grill — Daing na Bangus, Manggang Hilaw, Plain Rice
P89
Inihaw Express — Sinigang na Baboy, Inihaw na Bangus, Rice
Chin's Express — Pata Tim, Seafoods Curry, Long Life Noodles, Rice
Pinoy Toppings — Arroz Ala Cubana, 3 pcs. Longganiza w/ egg, Rice, Soup
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2. Write your name, address, contact number and signature at the back of your tape receipt. Your Mercury Drug tape receipt will serve as entry coupon. Only one entry per receipt is allowed.
3. Drop entry in designated drop boxes located in any Mercury Drug self-serve store nationwide.
4. Raffle draw will be on October 31, 2002 at the Nestlé Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
5. Winners can claim their prizes at the Nestlé Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Winners must bring their registered notice and valid ID when getting their prizes. Prizes can be claimed within 60 days after raffle. Prizes for provincial winners will be forwarded to the local Nestlé office. Provincial winners will be notified where to claim the prizes. Unclaimed prizes after the 60-day period shall be forfeited in favor of Nestlé Philippines, Inc. With prior approval of BFAD.
6. All raffle prizes are not convertible to cash.
7. Deadline for dropping of entries is on September 30, 2002.
8. See posters and leaflets for details.
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Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2002 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 44

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Puppets of the world unite

They came in all shapes and sizes and some without even strings attached

Text and Photos by Mae Astrid Tobias

HAVE you ever seen a puppet balance a plate on its head without any strings? Would you be more impressed if you found out that the puppeteer controlled it using only one hand?

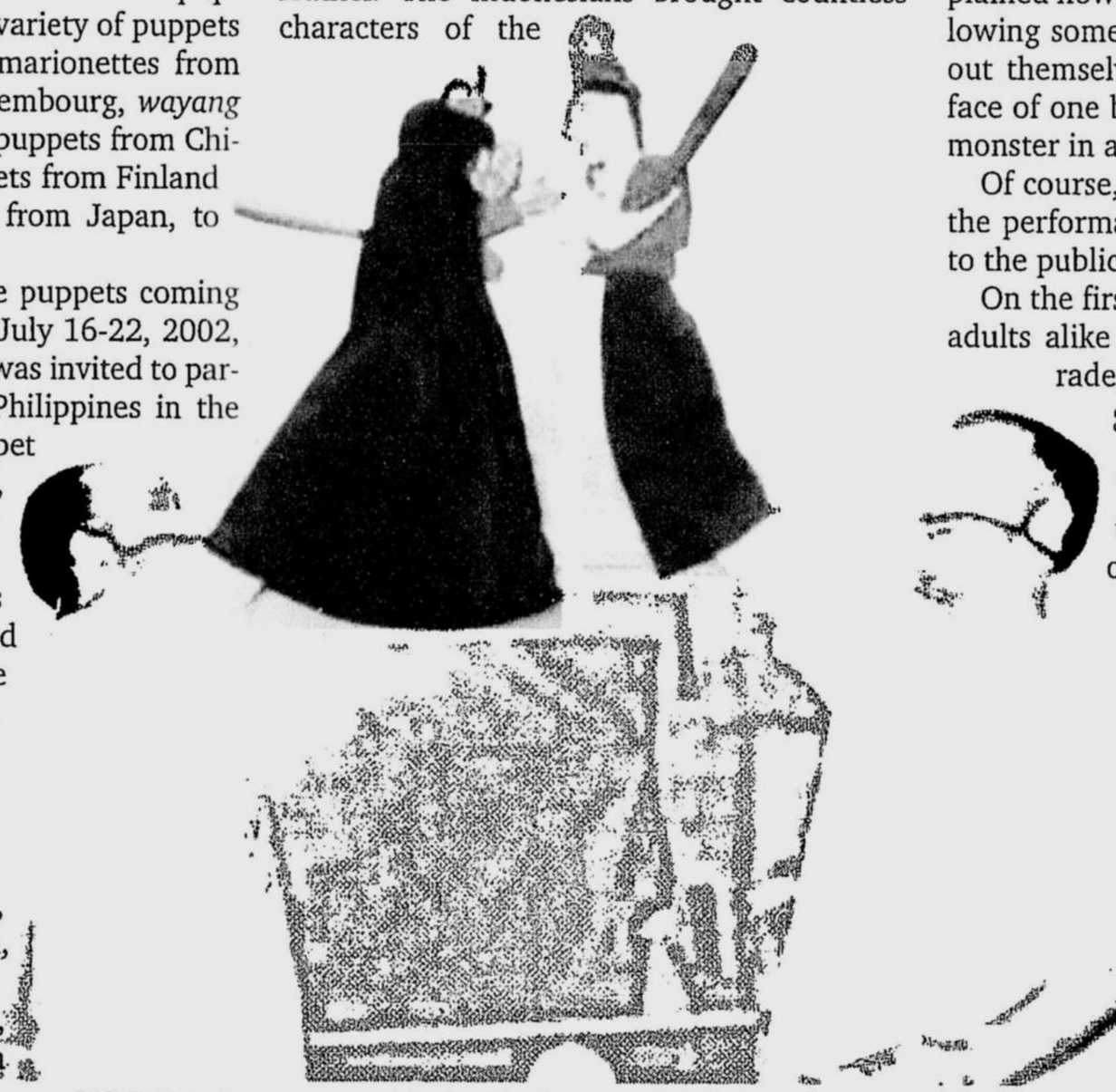
All through the ages, different cultures from Asia and Europe have had a tradition of puppetry, giving birth to a wide variety of puppets the world over. There are marionettes from Belgium, Germany, and Luxembourg, *wayang golek* from Indonesia, glove puppets from China and Spain, shadow puppets from Finland and Sweden, and *bunraku* from Japan, to name a few.

Can you imagine all these puppets coming together in one place? Last July 16-22, 2002, Teatrong Mulat ng Pilipinas was invited to participate and represent the Philippines in the first ever Asia-Europe Puppet Festival held in Bangkok, Thailand. And I was lucky enough to join them.

Nineteen puppet groups from 16 countries in Asia and Europe showed up for the festival. Represented were the countries of Austria, Belgium, China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, and Thailand.

Thanks to the organizers, the Asia-Europe Foundation and Thailand's Office of National Culture Commission, we got to learn a lot more about each other through exhibits and lecture-workshops.

At the exhibits, everybody had a chance to see the different puppets of the troupes. Host Thailand filled a huge hall with the different kinds of puppet traditions found in the country. We saw giant marionettes controlled from below and shadow puppets made from animal leather. The Indonesians brought countless characters of the traditional *wayang golek* for everyone to see and even buy.



BEHIND the scenes with the Pa Sucat puppeteers from Spain as they demonstrate some of their techniques.

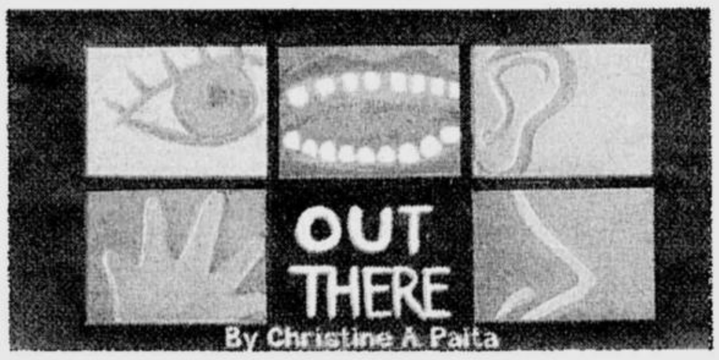
The lecture-workshops were very interesting because the puppeteers revealed some of their most well-kept secrets. The Spanish troupe, Pa Sucat, showed us how they made flame come out every time the devil appeared. The Japanese troupe, on the other hand, explained how some of their puppets work by allowing some of the Thai students to try them out themselves. They even showed how the face of one beautiful lady puppet turns into a monster in a single movement.

Of course, the best part of the festival were the performances, which were free and open to the public.

On the first day of the festival, children and adults alike were delighted by a puppet parade, where a giant elephant and a group of lively drummers led the puppet troupes onto the stage. The troupes also performed for three minutes each during the opening program just to give the audience a peek of what was in store for them for the next several days.

The Zhang Zhou Puppet Troupe from Fujian, China is definitely my favorite. Their puppets are small and beautifully made and best of all, did the fanciest tricks. Some puppets balanced plates on their heads, smoked pipes, twirled batons and swirled ribbons like ex-

Puppets/ p. 8



Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

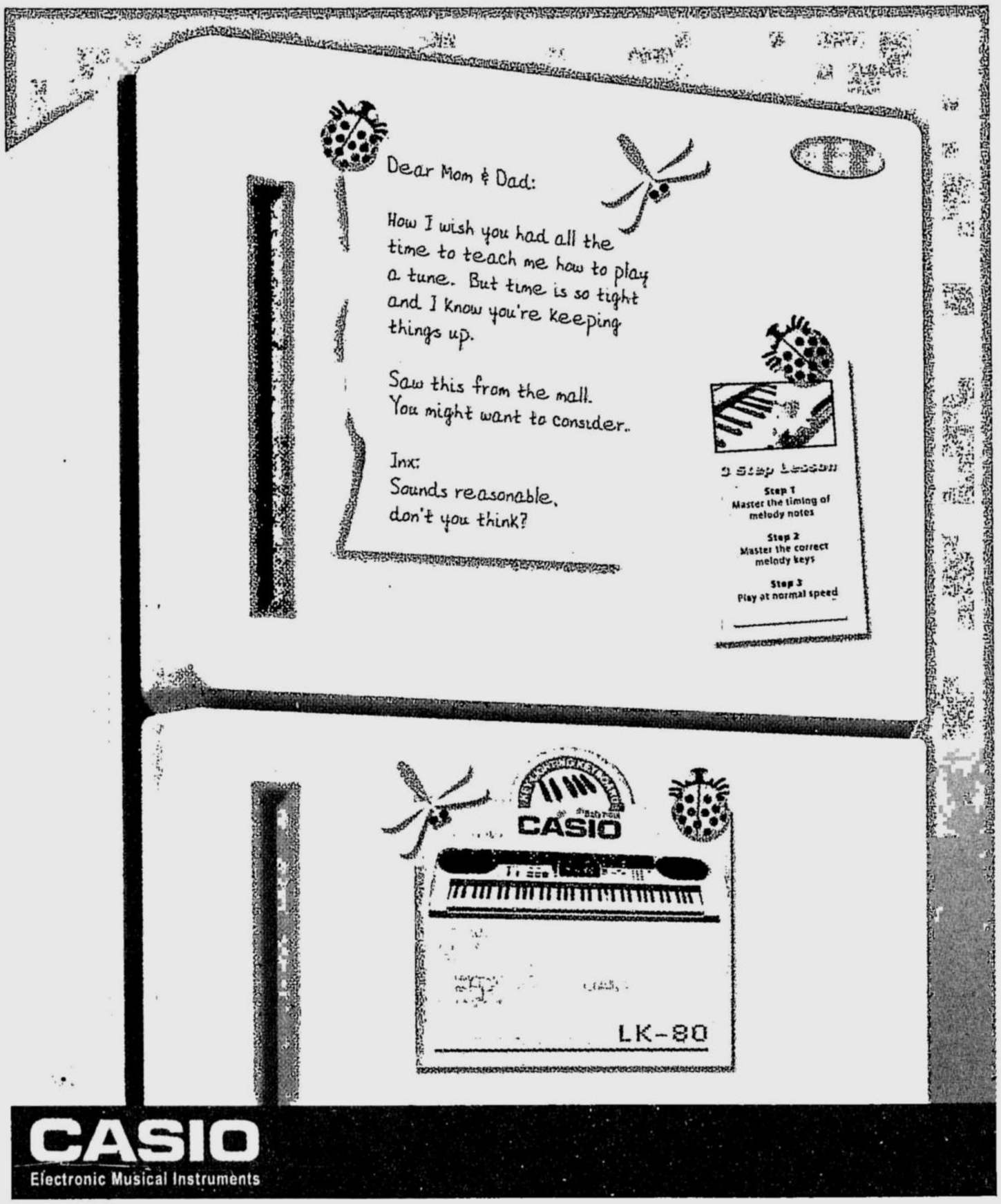
Contests

ABKD. The Citizens' Disaster Response Center is conducting its annual poster-making contest for children. Called "Apoy, Bagyo, Kalamidad: Dibuhong Pambata" or ABKD, the contest aims to impart the value of disaster preparedness to children. Girls and boys ages 7-9 can join Category A, while kids ages 10-12 can join Category B. For each category, children can choose from a set of disaster types the subject of their design. Deadline for submission of entries is on September 16. For copies of posters and for more info please call 924-0386 or 929-9822. You may also email CDRC at rpidcdrc@i-manila.com.ph.

ART FOR PEACE. Paint your message of peace in Jollibee's "Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid!" art contest. The contest is open to students, ages 7 to 12, from all schools. Contestants may submit only one entry in any of the two categories: oil-based medium (using oil pastels) and water-based medium (using watercolor, acrylic, water-soluble colored pencil, or gouache). Contest ends on Aug. 16. For more info, see posters and flyers at a Jollibee store nearest you, or visit www.jollibee.com.ph.

Workshop

AT MUSEO PAMBATA. Learn how to make creative shadow puppets using recyclable materials under visual artist Willy Gaudinez on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 10 a.m. Only 15 slots are available, so hurry and register with Ate Des of Museo Pambata at 523-1797 to 98.



Play

TUGON. Penny Reyes-Velasco's "Are you the Forest King?" comes to life on stage in "Tugon," a play-cum-fashion show. Woven into the plot, children transformed into creatures of land, air and water strut down the catwalk as a little boy searches for the Forest King. Presented by Kids at Play in cooperation with Lunduyan Foundation, Inc., "Tugon" is showing for free at the different SM branches: Aug. 10, SM North Edsa; Aug. 17, SM City Manila; Aug. 24, SM Centerpoint, Sta. Mesa; Aug. 31, SM Southmall, Las Piñas; Sept. 7, SM Supercenter; Sept. 14, SM City Fairview; Sept. 21, SM City Bacoor, Cavite; and Sept. 28, SM City Pampanga.

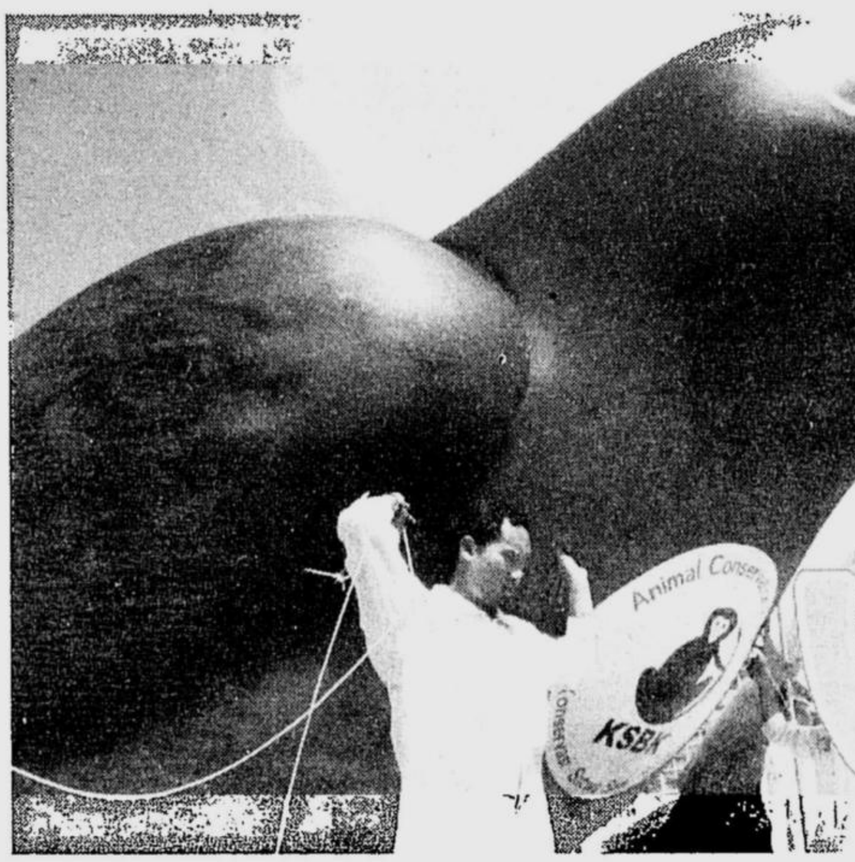
Exhibit

NEW MUSEUM. Explore the human brain in Safeguard's Museum of the Mind and Body at the Festival Supermall, Filinvest-Alabang. From dreams and memories, down to creative, chocoholic or scientific minds, you can learn about how our brains work in fun, fun ways! You can catch the exhibit until March 2003.

Cable Picks

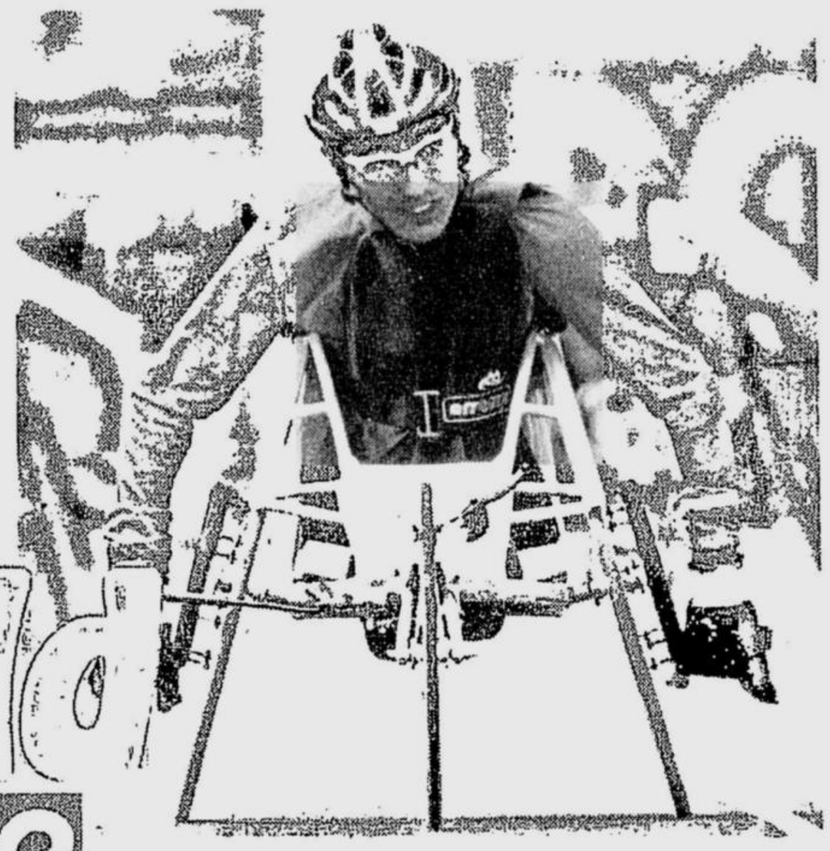
ANIME. It's the AXN Anime Festival on Aug. 11. Catch the hottest anime action with "Alien9," and "Galaxy Angels" premiering at 12 nn and 1:30 respectively, followed by "Ah! My Goddess (OVA)," from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. and "El Hazard: The Magnificent World (OVA II)" at 12:30 a.m. Winners of the AXN Anime Drawing Contest 2002 will also be announced, so don't miss it!

Scope



Party Balloons?

NOPE, protest balloons. Animal conservation activists are demonstrating against the illegal sale and export of Indonesia's endangered birds, such as the Red and Blue Lory (Eos histrio), left, and the Black Palm Cockatoo (Probosciger aterrimus). *AP*



Wheelchairs of Fire

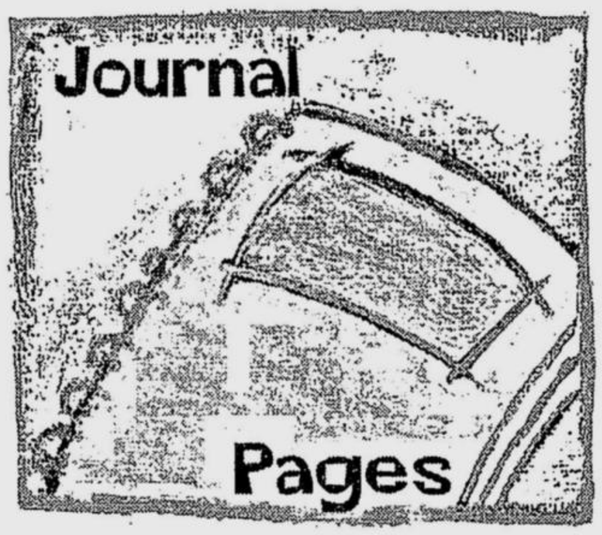
ITALIAN Alvise De Vidi wins the T51 800-meter event at the 3rd IPC (International Paralympic Committee) Athletics World Championships in Villeneuve d'Ascq, France. *AFP*

Retired Survivors

THESE horses mark the 20th anniversary of Hyde Park (July 19) and its bombing 10 years ago (July 20) by the Irish Republican Army. Former cavalry horse, Yetti, is approached by Echo, a former police horse, who suffered terrible injuries from the nail-bomb which killed four men and seven horses. They now spend their days at Buckinghamshire, a lush retirement home for working horses. *AP*

Angel on Dad's Shoulder

A BABY falls asleep during a procession in honor of the 17th century Spanish missionary, Brother Pedro. Pope John Paul II canonized Brother Pedro on his visit to Guatemala in July. *Reuters*



I LOVE to laugh. I laugh at anything and everything, even when there's nothing happening. I try to remember a funny incident, play it in my head and just giggle myself silly.

My own laugh is a "hahaha," intensified, amplified and multiplied by ten. I start by giggling, which turns to a hearty laugh, then, to an ear-splitting noise. My whole face becomes the twin of a tomato when I laugh. My eyes crinkle up and become slits against a red background.

Laughing is Good for You and Your Soul

By Vada Rodriguez
Colegio San Agustin, Makati City

My laugh has gotten me into trouble a few times. Once, in Social Studies, my teacher mentioned the word "nut." I looked at my friend, Haru, and we cracked up (I don't know why). My teacher saw me and got mad! She told me to go outside and take a walk to calm down.

But laughing can help you let go of stress and lets you loosen up. Plus, it doesn't require or cost anything!

Sometimes we have problems that are bottled up inside. But when you laugh, they rise from the pit of your stomach, move up the esophagus and fly out of your mouth. You just throw all these problems out. It feels great to be free, or at least, feel like that for a minute or two.

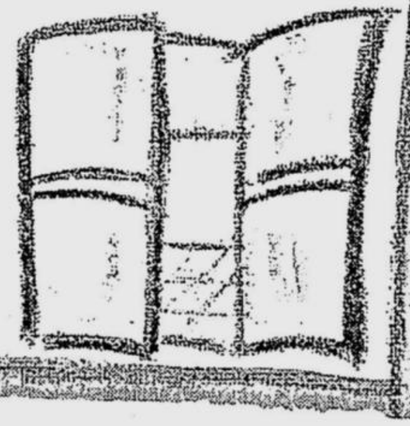
So, laugh! Go out and laugh!

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight From JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



I Want to be a Journalist

DEAR Editor,

I really love to read your different articles in JI. The magazine gives us kids information about our country and even the rest of the world. There are also suggestions, advice, and super exciting stories that kids or teenagers can relate with.

When I grow up, I want to be a journalist. Thank you, JI, for helping me and serving as my inspiration in choosing my future profession.—**SARAH M. ESPIA**, 13, St. Paul's College, Quezon City

Junior Inquirer

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DRAWING, ASIAN STYLE

By Eline Santos

A NEWSPAPER without a comics section is just not complete. Comics make us laugh and think. Comics can also teach us about the society from which the cartoonist came.

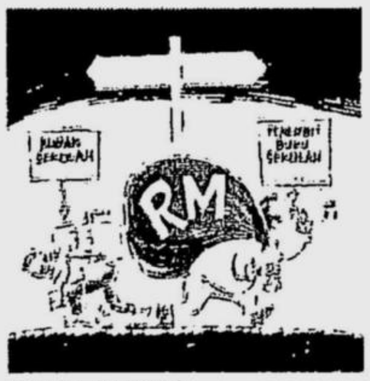
The 5th Asian Cartoon Exhibition went on display at the Shangrila Plaza Mall until July 26. Presented by the Japan Foundation, ten cartoonists from China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Japan and the Philippines played around with the theme "Human Resources in Asia."

INDONESIA

Indonesian cartoonist Dwi Koendoro Brotoatmodjo parodied children singing on the streets for money who accepted credit cards.

Maung Maung Aung from Myanmar depicted what happens without sufficient education. He drew a fat man sitting on an armchair carried on the shoulders of many little people.

Japanese artist Ayuzawa Makoto showed schoolchildren with their electronic pet dogs that have replaced real pets which are forbidden in apartments.



MALAYSIA

Tonton Young was this year's Philippine representative. He is president of the Philippine Association of Cartoonists and is best known for his "Pupung" comic strip in the Manila Bulletin.

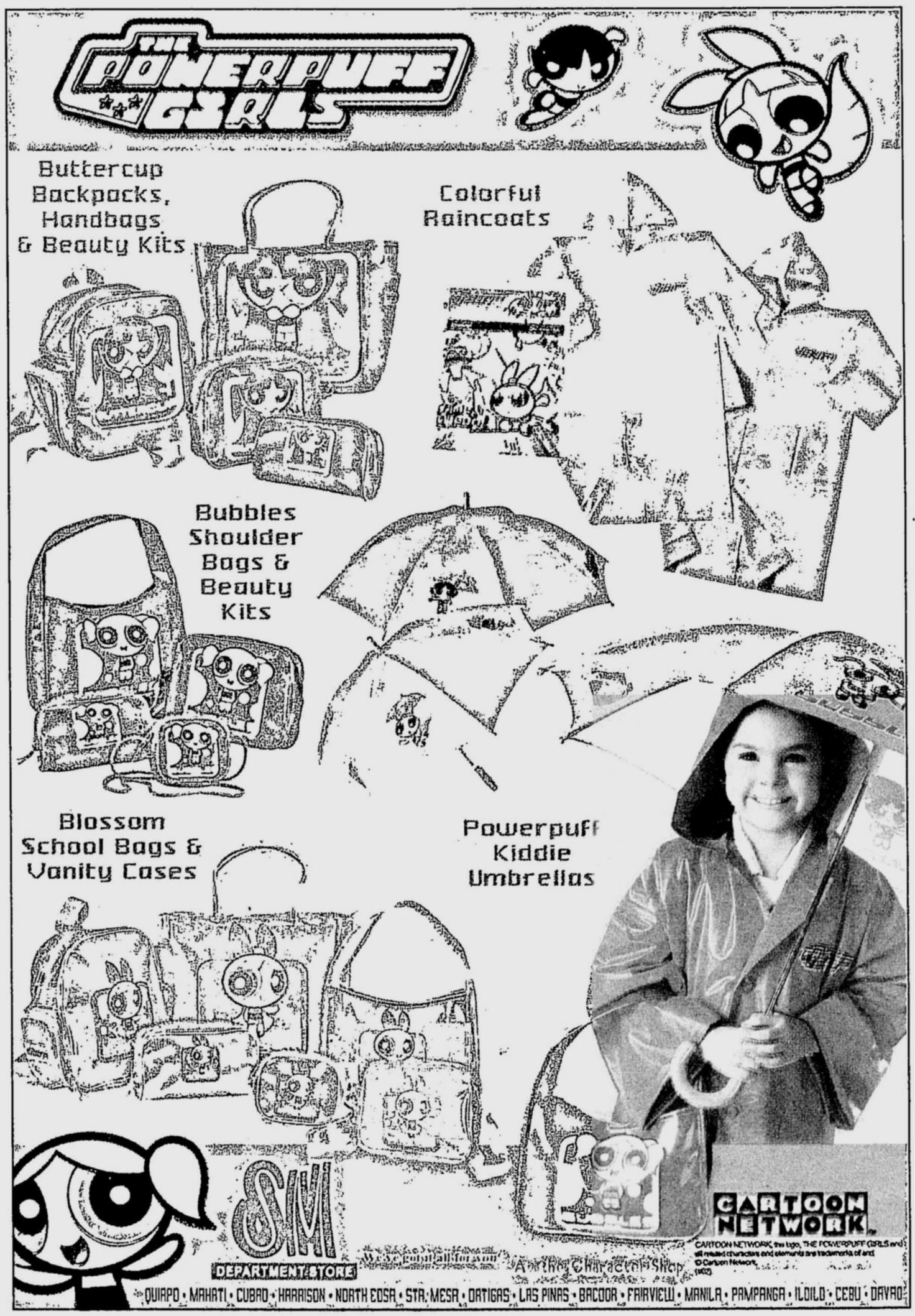
"If cartooning is your dream, then just keep on drawing," he advises. "*Yun ang sabi sa 'kin ni* Larry Alcala."

Tonton says he gets material from "everyday life. Experiences, while playing basketball... *hindi nauubusan*."

"Drawing is the easy part," he says. It's the ideas that take longer. "You edit yourself *din. Kung corny, tapon mo*."

The other artists were Wonsoo Yi from Korea; Zuo Jili from China; CH. Venkatesh from India; Mohamad Hanafiah Ibrhim from Malaysia; Pijarn Tangkapaisal from Thailand; and Nishida Toshiko from Japan.

TONTON Young showed his skills by drawing two cartoons during the opening of the Asian Cartoon Exhibit.



ANG Nawawala KONG Titser

Ni Genaro R. Gojo Cruz
Guhit ni Lyra Abueg Garcellano

Unang araw ng pasukan, hinanap kita agad
sa buong iskul;
Sa ating klasrum noong isang taon,
Sa library, canteen, maging sa
computer room
At guard house
Ngunit di kita makita at matagpuan.
Gusto ko pa naman sanang ipabasa sayo
Ang kuwentong isinulat ko noong bakasyon.
Tiyak na magugustuhan mo ang kuwento ko
Dahil mabuti at mabait na ang bida.

Ipinagtanong kita kahit kanino;
Sa aking mga klasmeyt,
Kay Titser Zen na guro ng Grade 3,
Sa Librarian, sa Principal,
Maging kay Ate Sarah na kahera sa canteen
At Kuya Danny, ang guard.
Ngunit di rin nila alam kung nasaan ka.
Di nila maituro ang lugar kung saan kita
makikita.
Lumakad ako nang lumakad hatak-hatak
ang bago kong bag.
Bawat room ay aking pinapasok.
Bawat makasalubong ay aking tinatanong
(umiiling lang sila).
Di talaga kita makita at matagpuan.
Naupo na lang ako sa isang upuan sa may
catwalk.
Napapagod na kasi ako at pinagpapawisan.
Pinagmasdan ko na lang ang mga batang
naglalaro sa ilalim ng punong nara.
Naalala ko noong isang taon,
Dito mo kami kinu-
kwentuhan ng mga
kuwentong sob-
rang ganda.
Di ko pa rin makali-
mutan si Ching na
takot sa dilim, si
Ani, si Botchok, si
Chenelyn,
Lalo na `yung
barumbadong dyip
at sundalong pat-
pat na nagha-
hanap sa ulan.
At ang sabi mo, kaya
rin namin sumulat
ng mga kuwentong
magaganda.

Siguro mamaya darating ka na
At mababasa ko na rin sayo ang kuwentong
naisulat ko.
Pero naisip ko, paano kaya kung di na talaga
kita makita at matagpuan?
Paano na ang aking kuwento?
Paano na ako at ang aking mga kaklase?
Kinabahan akong bigla.
Tumibok nang mabi-
lis ang aking puso.
Ayos lang siguro sa
akin na di na ikaw
ang titser ko nga-
yong Grade 2 na
ako
Pero sana nandito ka
pa rin sa iskul.
Sana di totoong
umalis ka at lumi-
pat ng ibang iskul.

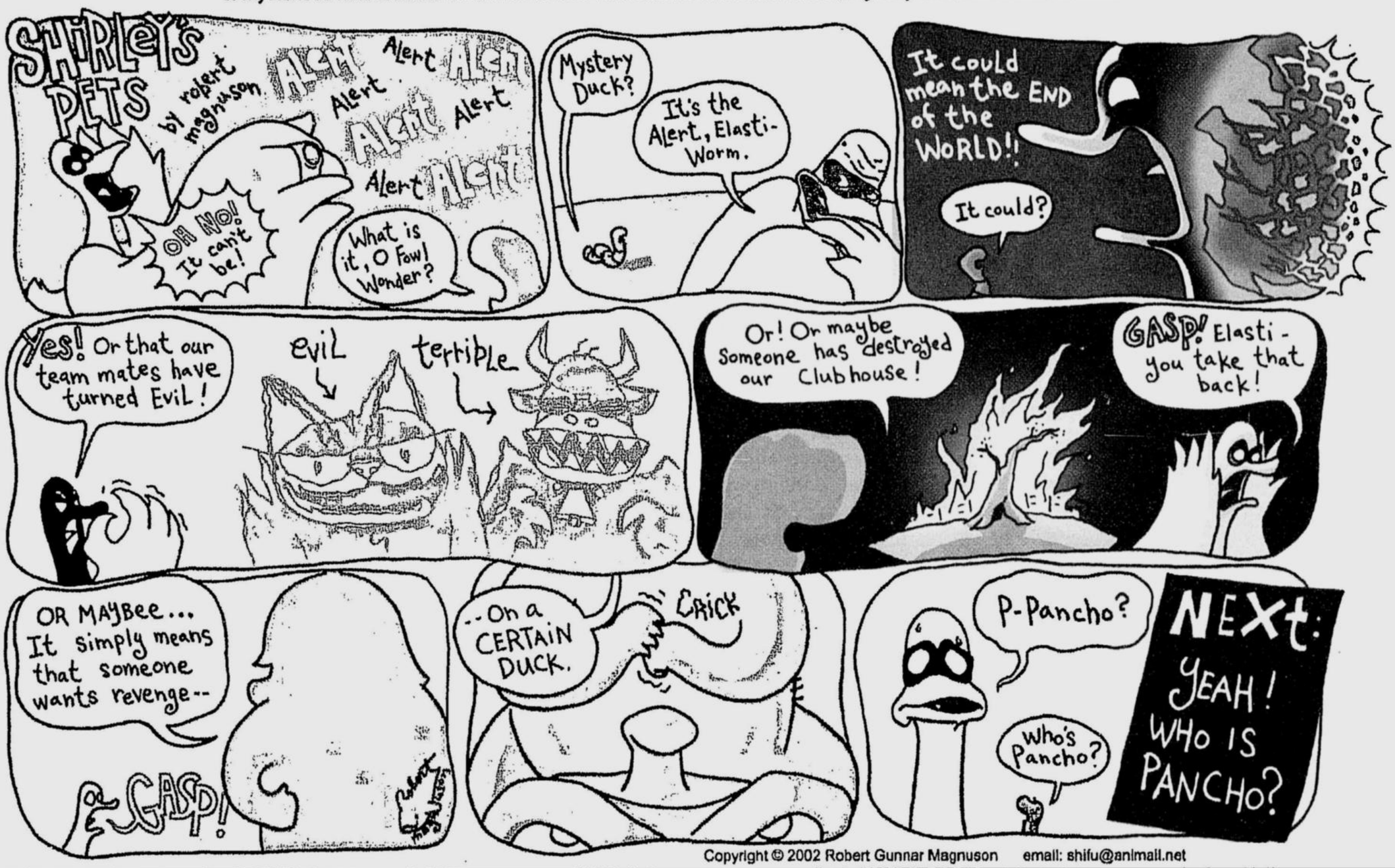
Di ba kapag nagku-
kwento ka sa
aming magkaklase
Parang ayaw na na-
ming matapos ang
kuwento.

Kaya `nung minsan dinugtungan mo ang
hulihan ng kuwento.
Tapos, biglang-bigla,
Nagawa mong kaming lahat na magkakaklase
ang bida.
Tuwang-tuwa talaga kami noon. Parang ayaw
naming matapos ang saya.

Kung di na talaga kita makita at matagpuan,
Itatabi ko na lang ang kuwentong
naisulat ko.
At kapag nagkita tayo,
Tiyak na hihilingin mong basahin ko sayo ang
aking kuwento.
Gagayahin ko ang paiba-iba mong boses.
Siguro di na matatapos sa loob ng isang araw
ang ating kuwentuhan.

*Si **Genaro** ay mahilig magsalaysay ng mga kuwentong-pambata sa kanyang mga mag-aaral. Mayroon siyang koleksyon ng mga kuwentong-pambata na isinulat ng mga manunulat na Filipino.*
*Si **Lyra** ay ang cartoonist ng "The Adventures of Atomo and Weboy the Buddha Bear."*

Last Episode: Static Cat. Gerbil Ball. The mice-duo Control and Experimental. Cynic Cow. All have fallen to the attacks of mysterious rival animals. Now the distress call reaches their team mates, Mystery Duck and Elasti-Worm...



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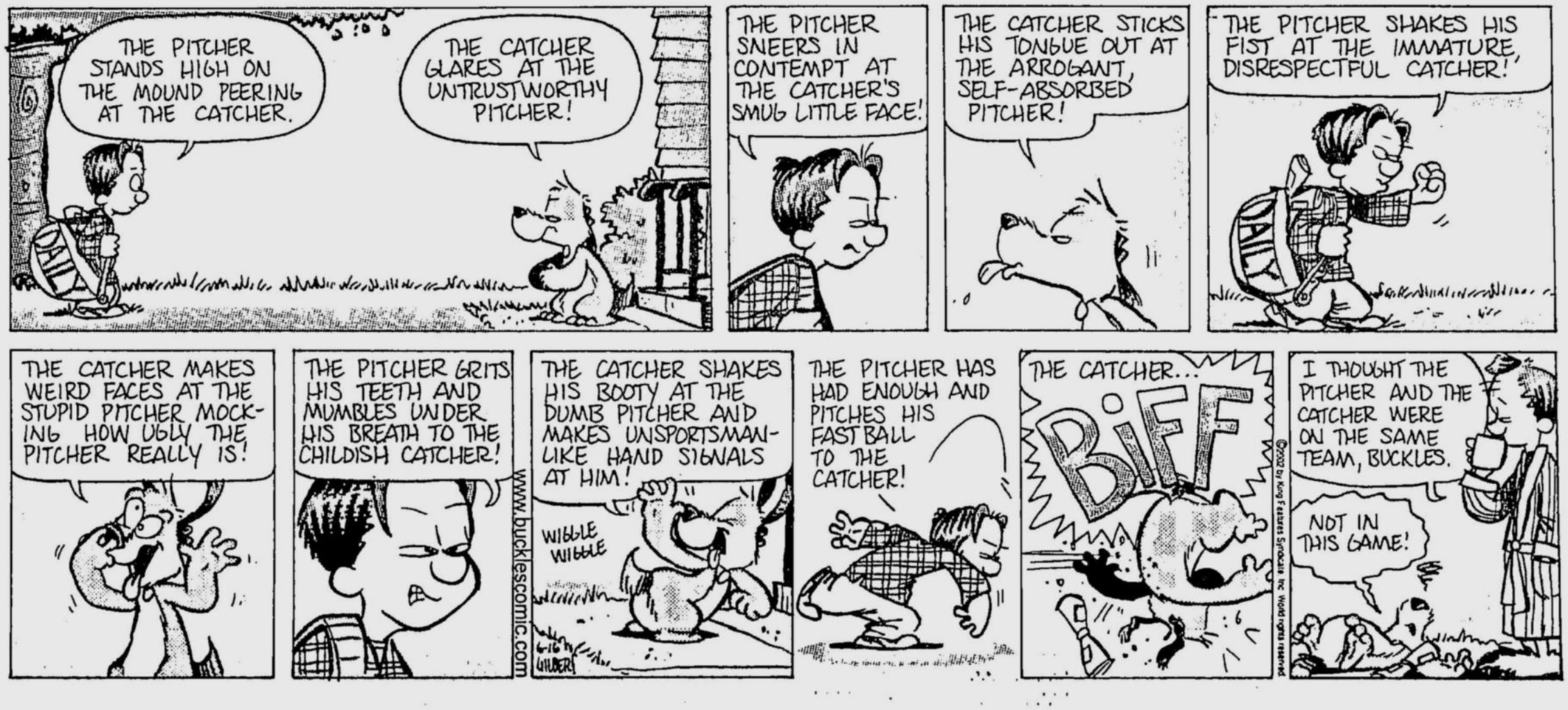
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT



A PAIR of marionettes from the German puppet group.

Puppets... (from page 1)

pert gymnasts with dexterous hands and fingers. Earlier, during their workshop, the puppeteers explained that a one-minute performance was the product of ten years practice.

The Hitomi-Za Otome Bunraku Puppet Troupe from Japan also gave an impressive performance. In Japan, the traditional *bunraku* is controlled by three men but this modern troupe employs one woman as the puppeteer, who uses every part of her body to give life to the puppet, even her head.

The 54-year-old puppet group from Germany, Augsburger Puppenkiste, was also a crowd favorite. They thrilled the audiences with a fantastic musical number of different dances performed by their wide collection of marionettes—from Russian musicians, a belly dancer, dancing cat and mice, a weightlifter, Greek dancers and a marionette holding another marionette.

Children also had the chance to help save the day in the story by the Singaporean troupe The Finger Players. They told a Chinese folktale "Origin of the Dragon Dance" where in the end, the villagers had to burn a fake dragon to fool the Jade Emperor.

Then there was Helene Hugel from the Puca Puppets of Ireland, a one-woman puppeteer who told the famous tales of "The Tortoise and the Hare" and "The City Mouse and Country Mouse."

Teatrong Mulat performed "The Trial," a Filipino folktale about a king monkey who ordered the animals in the forest to keep quiet because he had a big headache but some animals kept breaking his order and making noise.

Even the hosts and performers during the intermission numbers were puppets as well. Muppets from a popular Thai children's show "Chao Khun Tong" provided delightful song numbers.

Not all the puppet groups performed for young children but the young audience enjoyed them as well. One example was by the Finnish group, the "Snowangel" which told the life of the artist Marc Chagall. The kids in the audience were wowed by the sight of colorful shadows playing on the surface of a white umbrella.

After ten days, we didn't just have fun and learn a lot, we also made good friends with puppeteers from other countries whom we hope to see perform in the Philippines someday.

FROM left to right. Astrid, Aina Ramolete, Amihan Bonifacio, Raymund Ramolete, Mulat founder Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio, Rowena Dariano and Ralph Porto.

LUMIENKELI or, in English, Snowangel, seems to watch over the exhibit of the Finnish puppet group.

THIS Chinese puppeteer shows off the battle between good and evil using his glove puppets. Guess which puppet is the good one—the one in black!

Junior Inquirer
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Ma. Francesca Ysabelle Cornal of Bocaue, Bulacan
Bernadette Joy Marquez of Santol, Q.C.
Krisna Samantha Esteva of Taguig, M. Mla.
Bryan Christopher Santiago of Pateros, M. Mla.
Richelle Anilyn Estrella of Galas, Q.C.
Aimee Jeanne Padillo of Tondo, M. Mla.
Dominique Opinion of Balintawak, Q.C.
Neal Corpus of Guadalupe, Makati City
Ma. Monica Lualhati of BF Homes, Las Pinas City
Carl Raymund Salazar of Las Pinas City

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A Sensible Sitter

Steph makes food from scratch, recycles fancy jewelry and looks after younger kids

BEAD STRINGER. She need only count up to ten doing rosaries but Steph is a regular math whiz in school.

JOHNNY VILLENA

By Eline Santos

"ATE Teffie is so boring," declares mischievous 5-year-old Mark.

"Liar," retorts his half-sister Stephanie Ann Puen, who actually takes care of him, his 3-year-old brother Kevin, and cousins 4-year-old Christopher and 8-month-old Samantha.

"Toffie and Marky are friends. I supervise their playing video games. *Madali silang makasira* so I have to take care of them," the 11-year-old Colegio de San Agustin student says.

Steph describes her charges. "She wants to be carried a lot," she says of Samantha. "Kevin is easy to take care of. Just give him food—he eats nearly anything—and prop him up in front of the television."

Mark speaks for himself. "Make me french fries...now."

"You have to buy potatoes first because we've run out of potatoes."

"*Ay*!" Mark smacks his forehead. "She makes spaghetti with hard cheese," he says.

The cheese is hard "because it came from the ref," explains Ate Teffie.

Family Cooks, Family Ties

"We have different kinds of spaghetti," Steph tells us. Her Kuya David and older half-sister Pamela "like it more Italian. They use a lot of spices."

"I follow the kids, I like it sweet," says Steph. "Almost all of us know how to cook."

She picked up her cooking skills from her Lola Olympia and her Dad. Among the recipes she has learned, Stephanie enjoys making shepherd's pie.

Steph's Dad was married thrice. Richie and Pamela are children by the first wife who died of leukemia. David and Stephanie are children by the second wife who succumbed to cancer.

"We're all family," says Lola Olympia. "We do things together. We go out to eat. We attend mass."

On long weekends, Steph says they all go to Matabungkay. "We swim in the sea. Mark and Kevin play with the starfish."

Stephanie likes to spend time with her Kuya David, fondly called Video. "We watch movies together, *kaming dalawa lang*."

"What about Ice Age? *Kasama ako n'un ha*," Mark challenges.

With extra money from selling candies during her free time, "Sometimes I treat Kuya Video to a movie, because he needs his allowance more than I do."

Rosary with Warranty

Steph makes rosaries from her Lola's costume jewelry. "She washed them and made them into these," Lola Olympia shows her granddaughter's creations. "There used to be colored ones, *ano*?" Lola asks.

"I gave them away," Steph answers. Her rosary-gifts have a "lifetime guarantee."

"I can repair it for you if it gets damaged." The warranty lasts "as long as I'm alive."

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____
_____
_____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

She/he lives at _____
_____
_____

and studies at _____
_____

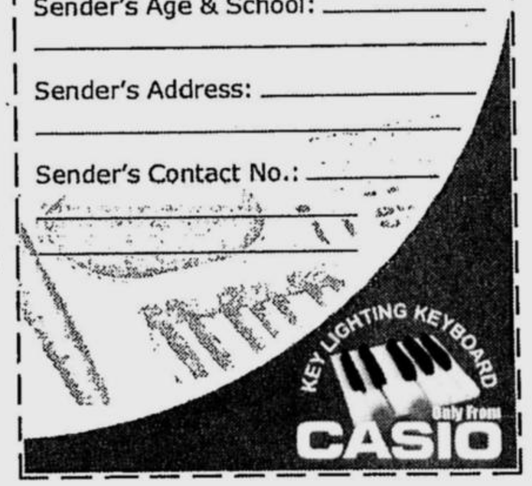
Her/his contact number is:
_____

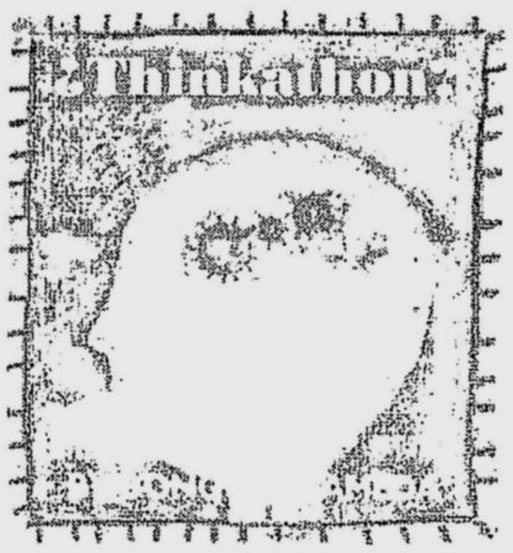
Sender's Name: _____
_____

Sender's Age & School: _____
_____

Sender's Address: _____
_____

Sender's Contact No.: _____
_____





Which Word?

BELOW are pairs of commonly confused English words. Can you fit the word that fits the given definition in each number?

1. to influence; to pretend
   - O affect
   - O effect

2. a city; money; an uppercase letter
   - O capital
   - O capitol

3. to put; to set down
   - O lay
   - O lie

4. a moral rule; a law
   - O principal
   - O principle

5. writing materials
   - O stationary
   - O stationery

6. to pursue with the intent to injure, or to harass
   - O persecute
   - O prosecute

7. at the side of
   - O beside
   - O besides

8. more distant in space
   - O farther
   - O further

9. noun that refers to the intervening time
   - O meantime
   - O meanwhile

10. the greatest number of votes received by any of three or more candidates
    - O majority
    - O plurality

11. the likely course of a disease
    - O diagnosis
    - O prognosis

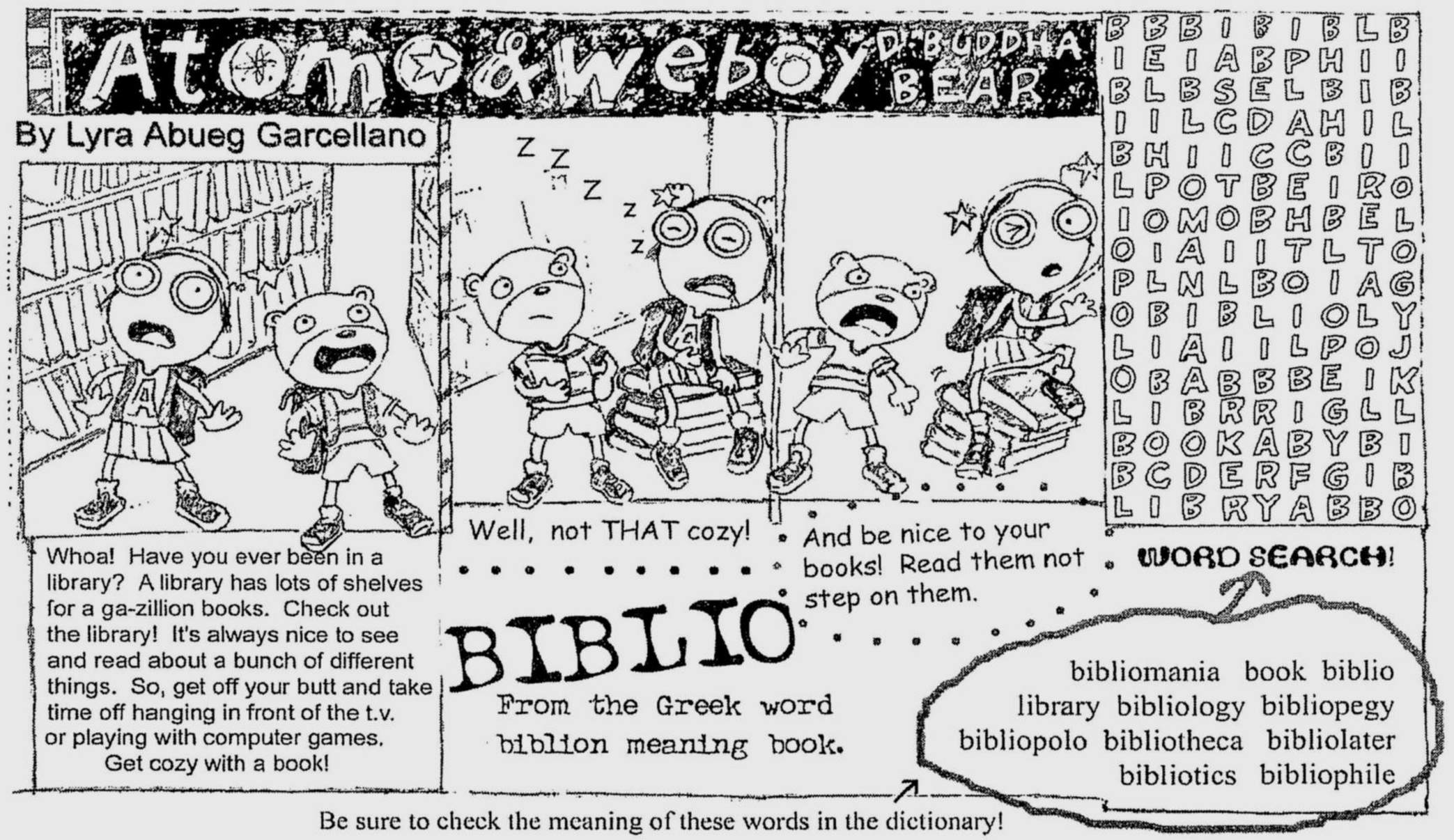
12. to leave a country to live elsewhere
    - O emigrate
    - O immigrate

Answers:

you immigrate to the United States)
emigrate from the Philippines; you immigrate to the United States)
12. emigrate (immigrate: to enter a country to live there—you
identification of a disease)
11. prognosis (diagnosis: the
half the votes)
10. plurality (majority: more than
ing time or to two things happening at the same time)
verb that refers to the intervening
9. meantime (meanwhile: ad-
charge; money lent or borrowed [noun])
5. stationery (stationary: not moving)
6. persecute (prosecute : to put on trial in a court of law for a crime)
7. beside (besides: in addition to)
8. farther (further: an extension in time or degree)
position; to make an untrue statement)
4. principle (principal: main [adjective]; the person in
3. lay (lie: to rest in a horizontal
in which government sits)
2. capital (capitol: the building
to bring about [verb])
1. affect (effect: a result; an influence, an impression [noun];

Ratings:

11-12 **9-10** **6-8**



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(602)

Nestlé

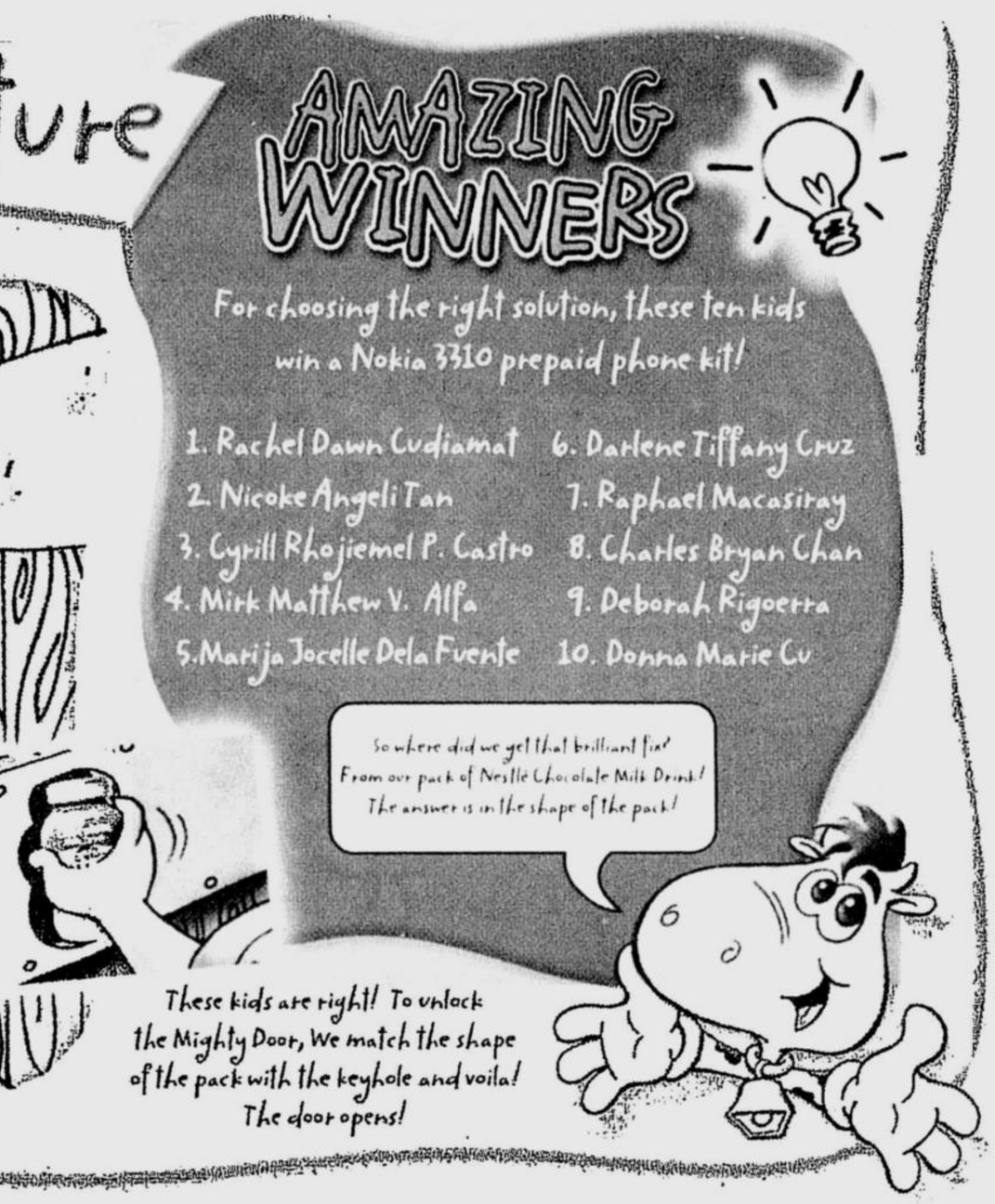
Chuckie Chocoventure

UNLOCKING THE MIGHTY DOOR

AMAZING WINNERS

For choosing the right solution, these ten kids win a Nokia 3310 prepaid phone kit!

1. Rachel Dawn Cudiamat
2. Nicoke Angeli Tan
3. Cyrill Rhojiemel P. Castro
4. Mirk Matthew V. Alfa
5. Marija Jocelle Dela Fuente
6. Darlene Tiffany Cruz
7. Raphael Macasiray
8. Charles Bryan Chan
9. Deborah Rigoerra
10. Donna Marie Cu



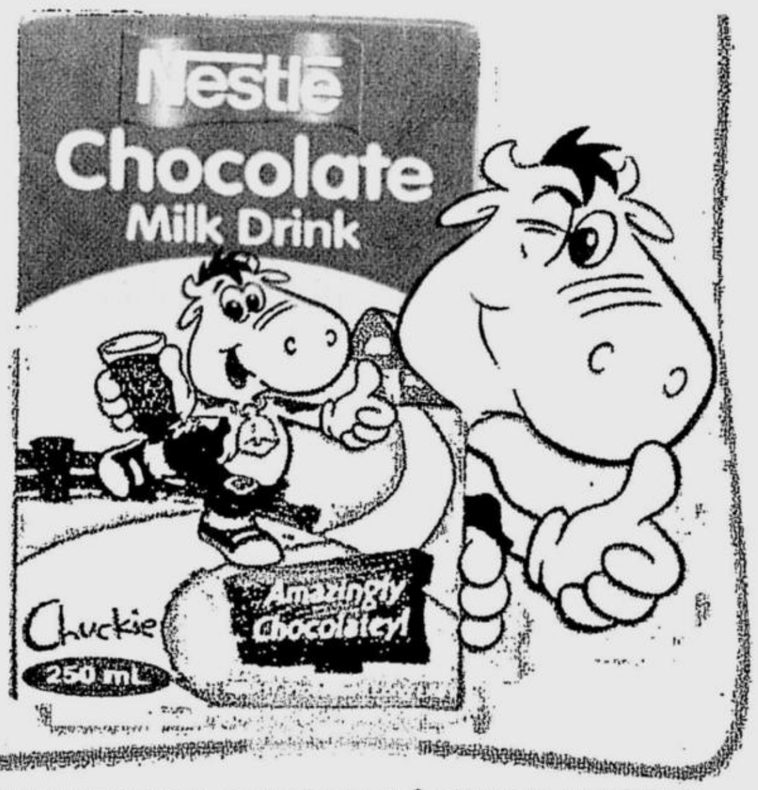
These kids are right! To unlock the Mighty Door, We match the shape of the pack with the keyhole and voila! The door opens!

Winners may claim their prizes at McCann-Erickson, 34/F GT Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. H. V. dela Costa St., Makati City. Look for Mr. Gail Riofrio, Mondays to Fridays, 10am-7pm. Be sure to present your I.D and the cellphone you used in joining the contest. Prizes will only be released to the listed winners. If you have any questions, call 814-6155.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No 0518 Series of 2002

Can you spot the difference?

There are 8 differences between the two pictures. Spot them all!



Answers: 1. Blue Nestlé flag 2. The new name "Chocolate Milk Drink" 3. "Chuckie" on pack 4. Signage text 5. Hair spike of Chuckie 6. Chuckie's wink 7. Chuckie's mouth 8. Chuckie's wrinkle

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Rebecca Ruga family asks: Will GMA visit us, too?

STORY ON PAGE A2

TODAY IN THE SundayINQUIRERMagazine

- Tia Carrere's Pinay story
- Sonny Jaworski: The senator at crunch time

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Guingona: I'm no communist lover

By C. Herrera

"I AM pro-Filipino," declared Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who took particular exception to Mr. Jose Miguel Arroyo's remark that he was "not a

GUINGONA/A17

NPA now on US terror list

Powell wants RP Reds' fund sources cut off, assets blocked

By Christine Herrera and Carlito Pablo

LESS than a week after visiting Manila in the course of a tour of Southeast Asia, US Secretary of State Colin Powell announced the designation of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military wing the New People's Army (CPP-NPA) as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) "as defined under US law."

In the decision published Friday in an official US government gazette, the Federal Register, Powell called on all governments to "isolate these terrorist organizations, choke off their sources of financial support and prevent their movement across international borders."

He said the CPP-NPA's designation as an FTO—which brought the number of such groups to 34—was the United States' way of "taking another important step in our continuing efforts to combat global terrorism." He also said he made the decision "in consultation with the attorney general and the secretary of the treasury after an exhaustive review of this group's violent activities."

In her weekend radio address yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo declared that her administration would relentlessly hunt down rebels and terrorists "who sow turmoil in our otherwise peaceful society."

She urged the people to lend their support to "end once and for all the challenge against the stability of Philippine democracy."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said "it's possible" that the President and Powell discussed the decision during their meeting in Manila.

Asked whether Malacañang appreciated the US move, Bunye said: "Anything that will bring us closer to the (peace) negotiation will definitely be welcomed."

He said it would weaken the CPP-NPA rebels to the point that they would sue for peace with the government.

"If the financial contributions are drying up, the operations of these organizations will be hampered, and if they don't have the finances anymore, that might seriously weaken (them) and eventually lead them to the bargaining table," Bunye said.

But militant groups said this would actually lead to the collapse of the peace process. They also said Powell's decision was a clear case of US intervention in Philippine affairs. ***(See story on Page A4.)***

NPA/A4

A WALK IN THE PARK JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Such as it is, the city isn't. But the city government's beautification projects are turning patches of squalor into pocket parks like this one on Adriatico Street in front of Malate church where the spectacle of lights and fountains accentuates the newly-renovated Plaza Raja Sulayman.

Jackpot contract: Anatomy of dubious deal

By TJ Burgonio

(Second of three parts)

HERE'S how to override internal objections to a proposed gaming contract involving a new system.

Create a new department, make it responsible for "business development," and then wait for its endorsement of the proposed system.

RISKY GAMBLE
An I-TEAM *Report*

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER show that at the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., such a process can take only a month. The papers, plus interviews with Pagcor officials both retired and current, sketch a disturbing pattern of an aggressive Pagcor board approving contracts grossly disadvantageous to the government.

Last year, three gaming firms offered to supply Pagcor with a "progressive jackpot system." A technology in use in casinos around the world, the system gives card players the chance to win the jackpot—a minimum of P500,000 in Pagcor's case—while playing the stud poker card game.

The three firms were MIO Associates Corp., Golden Taipan Gaming Corp. (GoldCor) and Australasian Casino Equipment Supplies Pty Ltd. (ACES). At the end of a 30-day field test in three Casino Filipino branches of each of the firms' "sensor, meter and progressive jackpot systems" last year, Ray Peter Vivo, then managing head of Pagcor's Gaming Department, wrote a memorandum to Pagcor chair and president Efraim Genuino, concluding that Pagcor stood "to profit best from a straight rental arrangement."

JACKPOT/A16

Palace: Pagcor expansion authorized by its franchise

By Michael Ubac, Carlito Pablo, PDI Visayas, Southern Luzon and Mindanao Bureaus

THE PALACE sees nothing wrong with the Pagcor expansion program that would allow the proliferation of slot machines throughout the country. So, why stop it?

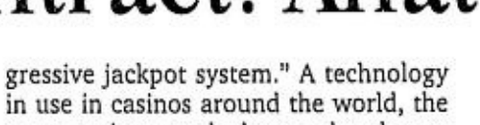
The Palace also said the Pagcor plan cannot be viewed as conflicting with President Macapagal-Arroyo's personal anti-gambling position.

But strong, contrary reactions came from the cities of Cebu, Davao and Lucena denouncing the President's "very inconsistent policies," and that she's no different from deposed President Joseph Estrada.

A ranking Pagcor official also said the company's so-called progressive jackpot system ***(see story at left)*** would actually benefit the government, without the government shelling out a single dime. Rene Figueroa, deputy chief of staff, said the income-sharing scheme finally approved by Pagcor was different from the one that critics had denounced, because the private partners had assumed the risk of the P500,000 seed money for the jackpot prize.

PALACE/A16

Top-rate hospital for poor is nun's dream come true



By Volt Contreras

THIS 61-year-old nun and accomplished surgeon has demonstrated that "everything is possible" through prayer, swears a colleague and childhood friend of hers.

In acknowledgement of her other gifts, the American Biographical Institute named her an "Outstanding Woman of the 21st Century" this year. The ABI citation now hangs next to her 1997 Ramon Magsaysay Award and 1992 Mother Teresa Award plaques.

But the self-effacing Sister Eva Fidela Maamo, SPC, MD, would rather skip talk about the international recognition she has earned in her three decades of serving the poor.

"Let's just focus on the foundation and the hospital," she told the INQUIRER almost sheepishly last Wednesday at her office-clinic in Parañaque City.

Maamo was referring to the four-story Our Lady of Peace Hospital now dwarfing her clinic along the Coastal Road in Barangay San Dionisio, on the approach to the Parañaque toll plaza. The hospital is "where the poor can (receive) free medical services and accommodation of the quality usually accessible only to the rich," she said.

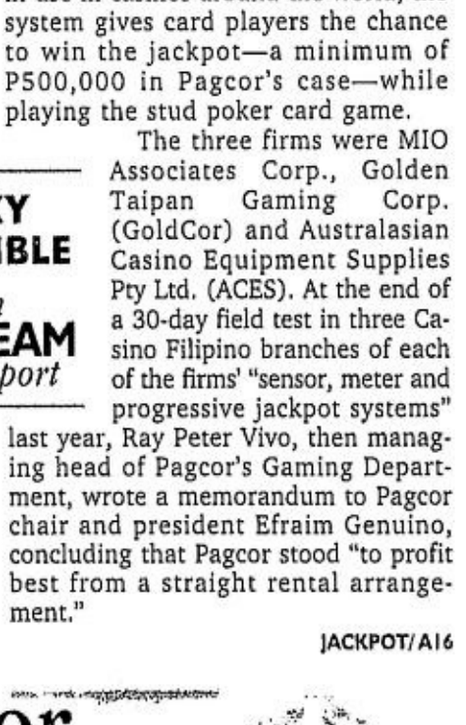
The 100-bed hospital that will be formally inaugurated on Aug. 15 boasts some of the latest medical equipment and patient-care facilities not yet found in most private hospitals in the country. And yet, "it's the first purely charity hospital built by an NGO (nongovernment organization)," said Maamo, founder and president of the Foundation of the Our Lady of Peace Mission Inc.

"All of the foundation's programs have been aimed at achieving the total human development of the people we help," she said. "And we regard this hospital as our new point of entry for evangelization."

It was a dream that took the foundation 12 years to realize, Maamo said.

Recalled Lyn Maceda, a board member of the foundation and Sister Eva's childhood neighbor in their island-town of Iloan in Southern Leyte:

TOP-RATE/A16



FIRST-RATE free hospital for indigents is the dream come true for Sister Eva Fidela Maamo, MD. VAL HANDUMON

Tribal water watchers keep Bukidnon rivers flowing

By Mozart A.T. Pastrano
Contributor

LANTAPAN, BUKIDNON—On the 11th of each month, Talaandig tribesfolk and farmers belonging to the citizens volunteer group Tigbantay Wahig (Water Watchers) troop down to this town's four main rivers to collect water samples and conduct chemical tests. Then they leave rice offerings wrapped in banana leaves to appease the water spirit.

This potent mix of action and prayer has guided the Tigbantay Wahig over the years (it is now on its eighth year) in monitoring the water quality and quantity of the Manupali watershed at the foothills of Mt. Kitanglad.

"Our mission is to care for the environment for the future generation," project coordinator Jhonie B. Sumampong, 33, said.

In 1993, the Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program (Sanrem) decided to address the issue of sustainable development in the Philippine uplands through "a participatory program of research, outreach and capacity building."

Sanrem, using funds from the United States Agency for International Development, chose Lantapan as the project's primary research site because of the crucial role its watershed ecosystem plays on Mt. Kitanglad national park and protected zone.

Lantapan residents were trained on the principles of watershed management. The first water quality monitoring workshop was conducted in July 1994. After the workshop, Tigbantay Wahig was formed to "care for and improve the environment through continuous water quality monitoring, allowing us to prepare for and prevent environmental disasters."

The group had bittersweet vindication when the findings of a seven-year study were recently released. It was happy that its efforts produced proof of environmental degradation in the mountain town, but it was also sad to learn for sure that the community was indeed facing an ecological disaster.

TRIBAL/A17

Second FRONT PAGE

'Where's GMA? Will she visit us, too?'

By Mei Magsino, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau,*
and Tonette Orejas, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

BANSUD, ORIENTAL MINDORO—The family of Rebecca Ruga, one of the two overseas Filipino workers killed in a suicide bomb attack in Galilee, Israel last Sunday, longs for a visit from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Where's GMA? Will she visit us too like what she did (Adelina) Cunanan's family?" said Rosario, Rebecca's mother, as she prepared to bury her daughter whose remains finally reached their home at dawn yesterday. She will be buried at 2 p.m. on Tuesday in the Bongabong public cemetery, beside her father.

Rebecca and Adelina Cunanan, another OFW also working as a caregiver in Israel, were standing right next to a suicide bomber in a packed bus in northern Israel on Aug. 4. They were killed with seven others, their bodies mangled and burned beyond recognition.

"We are still hoping she'll (Ms Macapagal) come and visit us. I hope the President didn't go there (Cunanan's Pampanga hometown) because she and Cunanan are from the same province," said Febe Manposte, 41, Ruga's sister who is herself working as a caregiver in Israel but has returned for her sister's funeral.

Febe, who strongly resembles Rebecca physically, said the last time she saw her sister was on July 28, a week before her death.

She was based in Jerusalem while Rebecca worked in Haifa. The distance kept the sisters from seeing each other more than once a month.

Premonitions

On their last visit, they talked for more than four hours.

"Rebecca told me that she'd been thinking of her dead husband who died six months ago. She gave me her last month's salary to help finance Leonard's (Febe's son) sents for our family," Febe said.

When she heard the news of the suicide bomb attack on a bus on Aug. 4, Febe said she had goosebumps as she knew about Rebecca's schedule.

When she began making phone calls, she was told that two Filipinas aboard the ill-fated bus were the ones standing nearest the suicide bomber.

"It was my boss who contacted Rebecca's boss. They were the ones who confirmed to me that Rebecca had been killed. Our bosses were also the ones who coordinated with all police stations and hospitals but they didn't find my sister there. We knew then that we had to check the morgue."

Febe said it was one of her friends who identified Rebecca's mangled and burned body.

"I couldn't look at her remains. I couldn't accept that she was killed that way," she said.

Some of Rebecca's friends in Haifa suggested that Pepito's soul may have come to get her.

"They loved each other so much that when Pepito died, Rebecca was devastated," Febe said.

"Now, when I think of what happened, I comfort myself and say, maybe Pepito really came down and fetched her. I hope they're happy together now," she said.

Skies wept

It was raining in Pampanga when the convoy bringing back the remains of Adelina Lagunilla-Cunanan arrived in Barangay San Francisco de Javier at about 2 a.m. yesterday.

The villagers were still awake, eagerly awaiting the final homecoming of Cunanan who was known to them as Lai.

AFTER a long journey from Israel, Rebecca Ruga's body lies in the family home in Bansud, Oriental Mindoro, watched by sister Febe and nephew Leonard.

"Bangkay ka mang dumating, bayani ka pa rin (Though you returned dead, you're still a hero)," read several welcome streamers.

Cunanan's older relatives noted how the heavens seemed to weep too.

"Kasakit na rugu pangamate (She had a painful death)," said Inez Lagunilla, Cunanan's mother, as she ran her hands through the sealed wooden crate bearing the remains of her fifth child.

Members of the Lagunilla and Cunanan families, in five jeepneys, went to fetch Cunanan's body at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Friday.

Neighbors formed a human chain leading to the chapel as Cunanan's white metal coffin was carried to the altar prepared the day before.

In typical *bayanihan* fashion, the village men rushed the construction of a concrete floor, raising it by two feet so the half-finished chapel would not be swamped by floodwaters.

Inez placed three portraits of a smiling Cunanan on top of the coffin.

Gladys, 17, Cunanan's daughter, cried out, "Mama! Mama!"

Cunanan's father, Pablo Lagunilla Sr. sat in front of the coffin, crying quietly.

Cunanan's husband Henry who works in Saudi Arabia is arriving on Tuesday. The family has yet to decide the date of the burial.

A note inscribed on a certificate taped to the crate read: "Sudden death, cause unknown."

The certificate had been issued by the Israeli government.

"The whole world knows she died from a suicide blast," said her older brother Herminio Lagunilla.

But a certification from the Philippine Embassy in Israel was precise. It read: ". . . this casket contains only the mortal remains of Ms Adelina Cunanan, a Filipino national who died in the suicide bombing on Aug. 4, 2002 in Meron Junction, Galilee, Israel."

"Nothing can be done anymore. We will just have to accept her death," Herminio said.

Neil, Cunanan's 20-year-old son, is in Cebu and is still unaware of his mother's death.

"I attempted to break the news to him last night. On the phone while I asked him if he had earned any money from his small business, he said, 'Mama will help me.' How can I tell him his mother is dead?" said Herminio.

He said his sister "worked to death" while abroad.

"She was very industrious, and always mindful of our needs although she already has her own family," Herminio said.

The Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration office in Central Luzon said Cunanan's husband would receive P400,000 in lump sum and a P70,000 lifetime monthly pension.

Inez, whom Adelina listed as one of her beneficiaries, will get P300,000 in lump sum and P10,000 lifetime monthly pension.

These benefits, which the Ruga family will also receive, will be coming from Israel's National Insurance Institute.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda and former ambassador Roy Señeres hailed Cunanan and Ruga as heroes.

Angara and Legarda said their death should serve as a wake-up call for the government to provide ample protection and support for all OFWs. ***With a report from Michael Lim Ubac***

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Petron leads new round of oil price hikes

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S largest oil refiner, Petron, announced it was raising its gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices by 30 centavos per liter effective midnight last night, triggering a new round of petroleum price increases.

New oil firms Eastern Petroleum and Seaoil Petroleum said their own gasoline and diesel products would increase at the same rate on Monday at 5 a.m. and 2 p.m., respectively.

Virginia A. Ruivivar, Petron's corporate communications manager, said last night's price increase reflected the increased costs for the company in July.

It said that average Dubai crude prices were pegged at $24.67 per barrel in July, up by 75 cents from $23.91 per barrel in June.

At the same time, the peso depreciated by 13 centavos, from P50.43 to the United States dollar in June to P50.56 last month.

Spokesmen for Pilipinas Shell Petroleum, Caltex Phil., TotalFinaElf Phil., and Unioil Petroleum Phil. said their managements have yet to decide on whether to increase their prices.

A Flying V official said they were considering raising their prices on Tuesday, but that nothing was final yet.

Prices were last raised on June 26, with gasoline, diesel and kerosene being rolled back by 35 centavos per liter.

Consumer welfare advocate Raul Concepcion, who has said a 29-centavo per liter increase could be expected this month, said the oil firms might be holding off price increases while waiting to see how Dubai crude prices and the foreign exchange rates would behave in the first two weeks of August.

Petron's Ruivivar explained that even though average crude prices went down to $24.20 per barrel in the first nine days of August, the decrease was very slight and was offset by the depreciation of the peso to P51.50 to the dollar.

She said there was no effective change in the landed cost of Dubai crude in the beginning of the month.

As a rule, domestic oil prices go up by 35 centavos for every dollar increase in crude prices and by 17 centavos for every peso loss to the dollar.

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Joma: US imperialism is biggest terror force

By TJ Burgonio, Volt Contreras and Juliet L. Javellana

"UTTERLY ridiculous" was how Jose Ma. Sison described the US government's designation of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army as a foreign terrorist organization.

"US imperialism is the biggest terrorist force that has ever afflicted the Filipino," the CCP founding chair said in a statement sent from the Netherlands, where he lives in exile.

"And yet," he added, the US government "has all the malice and temerity to misrepresent as terrorist every revolutionary force that mobilizes the Filipino people in a resolute struggle for national liberation and democracy against US imperialism, domestic feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism."

He also said the designation appeared to be "a psywar preparation for doing away with the... peace negotiations and for rationalizing the escalation of US military intervention."

In an interview with ANC Television, Sison said that alongside the designation of the CPP-NPA as terrorist, "you have wholesale terrorists like the US government, which has used as a pretext the attacks of Sept. 11 in order to impose itself in as many parts of the world as it can."

Sison is chief political consultant of the Netherlands-based National Democratic Front, which is engaged in peace talks with the Philippine government.

He said the CPP-NPA-NDF "cannot be intimidated."

"They dared to fight the Marcos fascist dictatorship and in the process grew in strength even while the US military bases were still in the Philippines, and were used for delivering war materiel and training Filipino puppet troops," he added.

The Associated Press quoted Luis Jalandoni, the chief NDF peace negotiator, as saying yesterday in a radio interview that the financial repercussions of the US declaration on his party would be minimal as it was "self-reliant."

"Many contributions come from the peasants in the countryside," Jalandoni said.

Expulsion

In a phone interview, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said the US move could pave the way for the expulsion of Sison and other NDF leaders from the Netherlands.

The party-list representative said this was evident in the pronouncements yesterday of Norberto Gonzales, President Macapagal-Arroyo's emissary to the NDF.

He quoted Gonzales as saying that the Philippine government wanted to convince the Dutch government that "communism is passe and armed struggle is no longer valid," and that it would be better for Sison and company to return to the Philippines.

But Ocampo said the Dutch government might not readily yield to US pressure because Sison, like other seekers of political asylum, could not be expelled without a receiving country.

Neither will Sison be returned to the Philippines if he will face prosecution, the lawmaker added.

Ocampo, whose application for a US visa led to a long interrogation by a US consul, warned that the US government might also crack down on Filipinos or Filipino groups in the United States suspected of having ties or sympathies with the CPP-NPA-NDF.

"This endangers the security of progressive organizations that are supportive of mass movements in the Philippines," he said.

Ocampo was to go on a speaking tour of several US cities last April 10-28 on the invitation of the Federation of Filipino-American Chambers of Commerce. But his efforts to get a US visa went for naught.

Both Ocampo and Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama said the US declaration could cause permanent damage to the peace negotiations.

Villarama also said that while the CPP-NPA might have committed acts that could be considered terrorism, the Philippine government still officially considered it an ideological rebel group.

No right

Militant groups immediately assailed the US move.

Sammy Malunes, chair of the labor alliance Kilusang Mayo Uno, said the US government had "no right" to designate the CPP-NPA as terrorist. "Only we Filipinos can tell who is the terrorist in this country," he said.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said the designation would likely result in "stillborn peace negotiations" and the "Vietnamification of the armed conflict, including unilateral US action."

It also said progressive groups would further become the targets of state repression, and, like Ocampo, warned that "discriminatory actions" could be launched by US authorities against Filipinos residing or working in the United States.

Rafael Mariano, chair of the farmers' group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said the US government was "obviously laying the ground for open aggression in the country."

"After (US Secretary of state Colin) Powell's visit, the US has ensured that they've found a cheap and docile puppet in Ms Macapagal," he said.

Mariano accused the US government of acting like "a superglobal policeman," saying it had arrogated unto itself the authority "to incriminate anti-imperialist organizations and sovereign nations as terrorists, like what they did to Afghanistan, in order to justify its armed aggression."

Gerry Albert Corpuz, information officer of the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, said Powell, as military adviser in the US wars of aggression, was responsible for the mass murder of people in Vietnam, Latin American countries, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Secretary Powell's psywar offensive is a trademark of a global terrorist and mass murderer," Corpuz said. "Instead of pointing an accusing finger at national liberation movements, Powell should instead reminisce his past and account for his previous crimes against millions of people."

Corpuz added that the US government should stop branding people and nations as terrorists "just because they object to American interests."

European help

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said two European governments were helping the Philippine government complete its peace process with the NDF.

De Venecia expressed the belief that the final peace agreement would be signed "in the next few months, definitely within the year."

He said that aside from being the gracious hosts of the peace talks, the governments of the Netherlands and Norway were walking the extra mile to help convince the NDF leaders to sign a final peace agreement with the government.

De Venecia recalled that the Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik personally urged Sison to abandon the armed struggle and integrate his party into the Philippine political mainstream.

He said this happened last Dec. 1 when he brought Sison and other NDF leaders with him to a meeting with Bondevik in the latter's office in Oslo.

The previous day, De Venecia met with the NDF leaders in Utrecht as part of his back-channel talks with them.

The Speaker said the Dutch government, host for much of the talks, remained committed to the resumption of the negotiations.

But he said the Philippine government and the NDF should "reduce the inflammatory and incendiary rhetoric" in order to fast-track the signing of the final peace agreement.

He said the government panel should also be in constant touch with the NDF panel in order to protect the gains achieved so far.

With reports from AP; Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NPA now on US list of terrorists

From Page A1

From his base in the Netherlands, CCP founding chair Jose Ma. Sison told ANC Television that the group was a legitimate political party decriminalized after the 1986 ouster of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

But he said the US move should not affect the resumption of the peace talks between the Philippine government and the Netherlands-based National Democratic Front.

Ms Macapagal declared war on communist rebels last Aug. 5, saying her campaign against terrorism did not distinguish between ordinary terrorists and those espousing a political ideology.

She also recently ordered the redeployment of military troops from Basilan and Sulu, previously theaters of intensive operations against the bandit group Abu Sayyaf, to areas where the NPA was actively operating and had expanded influence.

Maoist

Powell said that the CPP, a "Maoist group," was aimed at "overthrowing the Philippine government through guerrilla warfare," and that the NPA "strongly opposes any US presence in the Philippines and has killed US citizens there."

It was an apparent reference to the assassination of Col. James Rowe of the Joint US Military Advisory Group by the NPA more than a decade ago.

Powell also said the NPA was behind the killing or kidnapping of "numerous Philippine citizens, including government officials."

By designating the CPP-NPA as an FTO and publishing that decision in the Federal Register, Powell said, "we impose measures against these terrorist groups in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, which was originally enacted as part of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act."

This law makes it illegal for persons in the United States or subject to US jurisdiction to provide "material support or resources" to FTOs and also requires US financial institutions to "block assets held by them or their agents."

Under this law, members of FTOs are barred from entering the United States and can also be deported from there.

'I don't know'

Bunye hedged when asked whether Malacañang shared the US government's position that the CPP-NPA was a terrorist group.

"Well, we know that the NPA has been launching armed strikes against forces of the government, so I don't know how they are really classified," he said.

But Bunye said the government was not cutting communication with the NDF.

"Our communication lines are open, and if you will note . . . we are seriously pursuing all avenues for peace," he said.

The government's chief negotiator, Silvestre Bello III, earlier said "back-channel talks" with the NDF were expected to begin at the end of August or the second week of September.

The government panel chaired by Bello is rushing the completion of a draft of a proposed "final peace agreement" with the NDF on Aug. 16-17.

Among the issues taken up during Powell's visit was the grant of a $55-million anti-terrorism aid package to the Philippines.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes earlier said that of the amount, $25 million would be used to train Light Reaction Companies, or elite commando units, to be used against NPA guerrillas.

With a report from AP

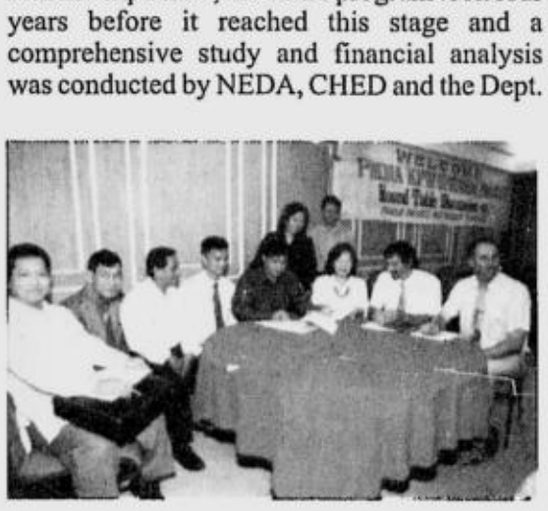
MATEO MARITIME MANAGEMENT

PMMA-KfW Round Table Meeting and MOA signing

Recently, a group of **Maritime School Administrators** and owners attended the PMMA-KfW Round Table meeting at the Traders Hotel and they were welcomed by its president, **Rear Admiral Virginio R. Aris.** The meeting was also attended by different sectors and guests from the print media and the crew of **Alas Singko Y Medya. Director Romeo A. Isaac and Engr. William Malitao of CHED** were also there to support PMMA regarding its upgrading program's viability. They also announced the faculty development program **worth 3 Million pesos** per annum.

During the meeting, the main discussion was focused on the modernization of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy and how it will help the private schools, training centers and other government institutions. The discussion was very brief but enlightening as described by the guests. The respond by the present PTPs was overwhelming that they would like to have the modernization program implemented immediately in order to be beneficial to all students and professionals without the PTPs spending millions of investments.

It was also explained that this equipment are more sophisticated than other famous maritime schools in the United States and sure to be the best here in Asia. As Ltsg. Richard Ritual of PMMA explained, the entire program took four years before it reached this stage and a comprehensive study and financial analysis was conducted by NEDA, CHED and the Dept. of Budget and Management before it was approved.



Before the end of the program Dr. Knud Benedict, a professor in Hochschule Wismar University of Technology, Business and Design from Warnemunde, Germany and Dr. Michael Rachow also a professor of the same university, gave their short reaction regarding the unique cooperation of the various institutions present at that occasion. The country manager of KfW who was also present, Ms. Olga R. Caday witnessed the signing of the MOA between the maritime schools and one shipping management company who eagerly wanted to be the very first in the commitment with the modernization of the PMMA.

On said occasion, the following schools set their affiliation with the PMMA and the commitment of the Academy will not just start with the technical training, but also includes other support like exchange of students, leadership training, faculty development and consultancy, ship board training and endorsement to international shipping companies. The following institutions who will avail this kind of cooperation is said to be easily recognized by the CHED as a center for excellence since all of their requirements can be found in this type of collaboration.

The following private training providers and institution who set their MOA with the PMMA-KfW project are:

1. **University of Perpetual Help System Laguna** headed by its Chancellor Dr. Karen Tamayo and Dean, Capt. Rodolfo D. Sanano.
2. **Asian Institute of Maritime Studies** headed by its president - Capt. Lino Paderanga
3. **Technical Institute of the Philippines** - Vice President for Academic Affairs Mr. Mario E. Herrera
4. **Lyceum of Batangas** - President, Mr. Peter Laurel and Mrs. Fe Rabanal - Medina, Ms. Esmenia Javier, Mr. Alfonso Calingasan, Dr. Flora Javier
5. **NAMEI Polytechnic** - represented by Dr. Celine Patag
6. **Columbus Maritime Institute** - Ms. Noeimi M. Buen
7. **Central Luzon College of Science & Technology** - Mr. Fer Julian
8. **Philippine College of Science & Technology** (Pangasinan) - President - Mr. Alejandro F. Siapno, Mr. Oscar B. Gironella Sr., Mr. Wilford G. Lapitan
9. **Mateo College** - Mr. Augusto Ang
10. **Mateo Maritime Management and MMG Group of Companies** - Chairman and CEO Capt. Ervin Y. Mateo

Other guests who were in the program were Mr. R.L. Libago of American Bureau of Shipping, Ms. Eloi Calimoso of Seaway Shipping Digest, Capt. Raul Coppelman, Mr. Mariano Jose Tamayo, Capt. Rene Sangalang of DZAR - Radio host of Buhay Marino, Capt. Solda of TSMI, and Ms. Pamela Amor of KAPPT.

The hardworking PMMA team who made the meeting a big success was composed of Lt.jg. Alejandrina Lava, Lt.jg. Gerry Doctor, Ltsg. Richard Ritual, Ltsg. Ronald Castro, Aide de Camp, Ltsg. Anita Aris, PCGA, Ltjg. Melchor Millar, Cdr. Roy Palmejar and Cdr. Jun Laforteza.

In other related developments, the commitment of Capt. Ervin Y. Mateo of the MMG conglomerates to provide one training vessel to the Academy is slated to be delivered on or before the 2nd week of August 2002. The vessel shall be delivered straight from Mindanao to SBMA where it is coordinated to be its homeport since the PMMA has no port yet of its own. The vessel is a dedicated passenger liner with a capacity of 1,000 passengers and crew. Its ship's GRT is 2,300 with an LOA of 83 meters and with 2 engines wherein one shall be dedicated for pure training of engine cadets. Each engine has a Horse Power of 2,800.

GMA: No mercy for saboteurs, crooks, criminals

By Carlito Pablo

NO mercy.

This, according to President Macapagal, was what economic saboteurs, crooks in the judiciary, and criminals should expect from her, as she pledged to scrub away the "rust in our society."

There would be no forgiveness, the President said in Filipino during her regular weekend radio address. "I swear that if they are caught, they will be punished. We mean business."

Ms Macapagal enumerated the government's recent accomplishments against crime, terrorism and corruption.

As her first example, she cited the discovery of the P203 million tax diversion scam involving officials and employees of the Land Bank of the Philippines branch in Binangonan, Rizal.

This feat has been marred, however, by controversy over the National Bureau of Investigation's presentation to media of Land Bank cashier Acsa Ramirez. In the presence of Ms Macapagal, the whistleblower was tagged as a suspect.

The government has offered no apology to Ramirez.

Three senators yesterday singled out this incident in imploring the President to seek "no shortcuts" in the war against criminality.

Senators Edgardo Angara, Teresa Aquino-Oreta and Francis Pangilinan said that Ms Macapagal should seek to dispense "justice for all" by seeing to it that individual rights, including those of the accused, were not trampled upon.

They maintained that parading criminal suspects in Malacañang diminished the dignity of the Presidency.

In her radio address, President Macapagal mentioned that criminal charges were being prepared against 300 companies found to have been under-declaring their value added tax liabilities.

"The Philippine republic will seek the maximum penalty against these economic saboteurs," she said, reminding her listeners that economic sabotage was a capital offense.

Ms Macapagal said she had even directed Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to file charges against prosecutors and judges who had issued "questionable rulings" on cases involving smuggling, drug trafficking and kidnapping.

She made a pointed reference to smugglers who, she said, wrought havoc not only on the national economy but also on upright businessmen and small farmers.

Last Friday night, the President personally condoled with the family of Police Officer 3 Oliver Benedicto who was killed in a shootout with bus robbers along the North Expressway in the evening of Aug. 6. At the wake in Sta. Ana, Manila, the President gave Benedicto's widow P50,000 in cash assistance.

Winding up her address, she assured her audience, "You can expect your President to lead in the continuing drive to clean up our society." ***With Cynthia D. Balana***

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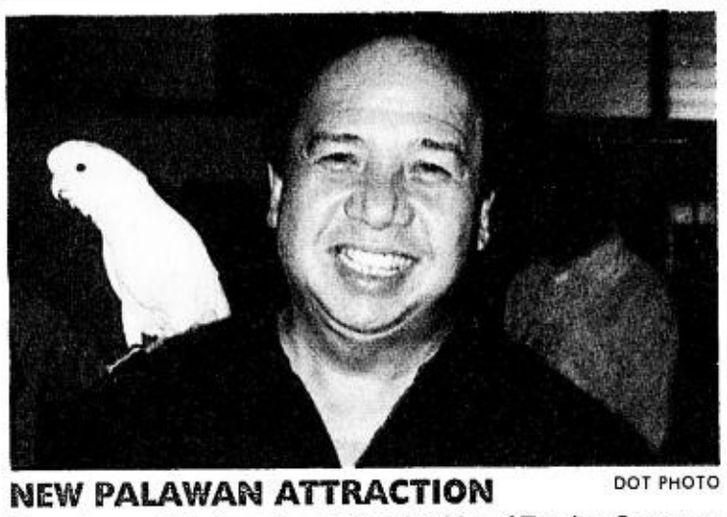

NEW PALAWAN ATTRACTION DOT PHOTO

An endangered bird perches on the shoulder of Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon during the inauguration of the Crocodile Farm and Nature Park in Barangay Irawan, Puerto Princesa City.

4 illegal immigrants to be caned in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR—Four illegal immigrants were sentenced to jail and caning on Friday in the first cases under Malaysia's tough new immigration laws.

Immigration director of central Selangor state, Che Mamat Abdullah, was quoted by the official Bernama news agency as saying that the four, aged between 22 and 24, were each sentenced to six months in jail and two strokes of the cane.

Under the new laws, which took effect on Aug. 1, illegal immigrants and those convicted of harboring them face mandatory jail terms of six months and up to six strokes of the cane.

Che Mamat declined to give details on the identity of the four except to say that they were from a neighboring country.

He said they were convicted of staying in Malaysia without valid documents after an amnesty period for illegal immigrants expired on July 31.

The four would be deported after serving their sentences, he added.

Officials said last week that only about half of an estimated 600,000 illegals, mostly Indonesians and Filipinos, had left the country ahead of the new laws.

Employers in Malaysia have criticized the new law saying it will damage the country's export-driven economy, which relies on foreign workers doing jobs that many locals do not want to do.

Malaysian authorities routinely deport thousands of illegal immigrants. But since last year, the crackdown has intensified, following a series of violent incidents, mainly involving Indonesians.

Che Mamat said 13 more cases would be brought to court next week while another 37 cases were under investigation.

He added that a Malaysian would be charged in court soon for harboring illegal immigrants. ***Reuters***

Historical Society meet in Cebu

THE PHILIPPINE National Historical Society is inviting participants to its 23rd National Conference on National and Local History set on Nov. 21-23 at UP College in Cebu City.

With the conference theme "Local History in the Context of National History," speakers will present papers on the local/regional history of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, the ethno-history of Mindanao and Sulu and the Cordilleras, Cebuano studies, society and culture, history and tradition, and the Philippine-American war, among other topics.

For inquiries, contact Dr. Bernardita R. Churchill, PNHS president and convenor, at tel. (02) 921-4575, telefax (02) 926-1347 or e-mail nitachurchill@hotmail.com, or Dr. Madrilena de la Cerna, regional convenor, UP College Cebu, at telefax (032) 233-9034 or e-mail mdelacerna2001@yahoo.com.

The PNHS, founded in 1941, is the oldest historical society in the country. It started holding its annual conferences on national and local history in 1978 at Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City.

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Grayline Plans, Inc.

" Reaching out to the greatest number of Filipinos ".

Grayline Plans is a member of the Grayline Group of Companies, a highly diversified multi-million peso concern owned and managed by a core group of retired officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Its board of directors is led by people with distinguished careers in the government service and are now in the private sector as accomplished businessmen and corporate executives.

The management team is composed of pre-need veterans who were instrumental to most of the major innovations in the Pre-need industry. Their long years of experience and expertise has enabled Grayline Plans to provide the best possible financial services to every Filipino.

Grayline Plans, Inc. was conceptualized as a vehicle to fulfill the profound mission of providing affordable financial services to every Filipino.

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Vice Chairman/Treasurer I

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EVP/CEO & Marketing Head

Mr. Francisco S. Crisologo
Comptroller

Atty. Dulce Blanca T. Punzalan
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Mr. Dante D. Torres
VP - Finance

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VP - General Services

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AVP - MilPol

Ms. Ma. Laarni V. Aranas
AVP - MSSD

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Grayline Plans, Inc.'s

1st Pagtitipon Ng Mga Sikat

" Reaching Out Together To Greater Heights "

AUGUST 9 to 11, 2002, CONCORDE HOTEL, BAGUIO CITY

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Member

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Mr. Lennetto A. Oyos
Member

Mr. Almirante F. Gallardo
Member

Ms. Ma. Lourdes C. Dela Cruz
Member

Mr. Melencio B. Fabian
Member

MESSAGES

I send my cordial greetings to the management and staff of Grayline Plans, Inc. on your First National Sales Convention. I commend your organization for its continued efforts to enhance our country's pre-need industry. Your commitment to to provide our countrymen a brighter future through financial security has consistently contributed to the progress of our nation. I hope that you will continue to actively participate in strengthening our economy.

The coming years will present daunting challenges that will test our strength as a nation. As we face the test, I am certain that all of you will continue to stand by the Filipino with renewed corporate vigor and set values

In this light, I urge you to join our Administration in our determined bid to achieve social and economic progress for our people.

Congratulations to the awardees and *Mabuhay tayong lahat!*

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Republic of the Philippines

I wish to extend our felicitations to the officers, staff and sales associates of Grayline Plans, Inc. on the occasion of its First National Sales Convention.

Our fellow Filipinos are facing a tough economic scenario. We know that without assistance, our people will encounter difficulty in providing for their children's education and for their own retirement. Thus, it is to our nation's advantage that pre-need companies like yours are giving our less affluent brethen, an opportunity to prepare for their financially secure future.

I an heartened to know that your company has remain steadfast in its mission to reach out to a greater number of Filipinos and help them uplift the quality of their lives.

The Securities and Exchange Commission will continue to provide the guidance and assistance that will facilitate the achievement of your corporate goals.

We wish you the best of luck in your efforts.

Lilia R. Bautista
Chairperson

It is my pleasure to greet our sales associates, employees and staff, fellow officers, members of the board, and stockholders of Grayline Plans, Inc. on the occasion of our *First National Sales Convention.*

Our company has gone a long way since that fateful August of 1995. Today ours is a company recognized for consistently delivering the services to our fellow Filipino has been tried and tested through the years.

We have prevailed despite the odds. All these would not have been possible without the unwaivering support and commitment of our people. In the years to come we will continue working together inj our pursuit of our common mission, that of reaching out to the greates number of Filipinos and uplifting their lives.

To all the members of the Grayline Family, congratulations and thank to you.

Col. Victor M. Punzalan
Chairman and President of Grayline Plans, Inc.

2002 Mga Sikat Ng Grayline

PIONEER AWARDEE

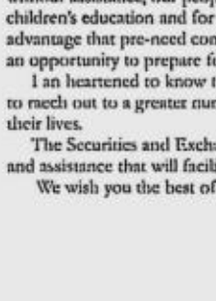
CRM Myrna Villas - QC
RM Evangeline Columbano - QC
AM Benilda Battad - QC
ARM Zenaida Sotelo - QC
AM Nestor Mabini - QC
AM Antonio Narito - QC
DM Juliana Villones - QC
CRM Cynthia Ramones - QC
AM Judith Del Agua - QC

PAGTITIPON QUALIFIERS

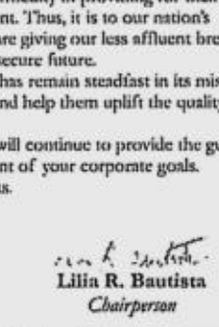
DM Juliana Villones - QC
RM Ferdinand Battad - QC
AM Benilda Battad - QC
AM Janette Batua - Davao City
SC Menchie Matuguinas - Davao City
SC Richard Battad - QC
SC Angelito Morales - Davao City
SC Marijes Bollozos - CDO City
SC Allan K. Matuguinas - Davao City
SC Michelle Columbano - QC
SC Rosalina Villanueva - CDO City
SC Luzminda Aguilar - CDO City
SC Mercy Battad - QC
SC Melodia Pahati - QC
SC Virginia Puno - Davao City
AM Dennis Garrido - QC
AM Mario Supnet - Davao City
AM Sheryll Aguilar - CDO City
AM Eduardo Columbano - QC
RM Lourdes Matuguinas - Davao City
DM Rolando Matuguinas - Davao City

TOP SALES DM, RM, AM, SC

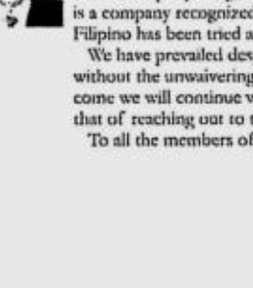
MS. JULIANA R. VILLONES
TOP DIVISION MANAGER



FERDINAND BATTAD
TOP REGIONAL MANAGER



BENILDA BATTAD
TOP AREA MANAGER



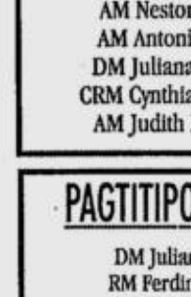
MENCHIE MATUGUINAS
TOP SALES CONSULTANT

JANNETE BATUA
AREA MANAGER
RUNNER-UP

RICHARD BATTAD
SALES CONSULTANT
RUNNER-UP

ANGELITO MORALES
SALES CONSULTANT
RUNNER-UP

MARYJES BOLLOZOS
SALES CONSULTANT
RUNNER-UP



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The Grayline Group of Companies

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Grayline Electronics and Communication Corp.
Grayline Ventures & Management Corp.
Grayline Commercial Corp.

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Congratulations from: UCPB Sun Life Financial

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, August 11, 2002
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 K 19:9, 11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he came to the cave and stayed in it. Then the word of Yahweh came to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Then Yahweh said, "Go up and stand on the mount, waiting for Yahweh." And Yahweh passed by.

There was first a windstorm, wild wind which rent the mountains and broke the rocks into pieces before Yahweh, but Yahweh was not in the wind. After the storm, an earthquake, but Yahweh was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake, a fire, but Yahweh was not in the fire. After the fire, the murmur of a gentle breeze. When Elijah perceived it, he covered his face with his cloak, went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

2nd Reading: Rom 9:1-5

Brothers and sisters, I tell you sincerely in Christ, and my conscience assures me in the Holy Spirit that I am not lying: I have great sadness and constant anguish for the Jews. I would even desire that I myself suffer the curse of being cut off from Christ, instead of my brethren: I mean my own people, my kin. They are Israelites whom God adopted, and on them rests his Glory. Theirs are the covenants, the Law, the worship and the promises of God. They are descendants of the Patriarchs and from their race Christ was born, he who as God is above all distinctions. Blessed be He forever and ever: Amen!

Gospel: Mt 14:22-33

After he had fed the people, Jesus obliged his disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he sent the crowd away.

And having sent the people away, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. At nightfall, he was there alone. Meanwhile, the boat was very far from land, dangerously rocked by the waves for the wind was against it.

At daybreak, Jesus came to them walking on the lake. When they saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, thinking that it was a ghost. And they cried out in fear. But at once Jesus said to them, "Courage! Don't be afraid. It's me!" Peter answered, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you walking on the water."

Jesus said to him, "Come." And Peter got out of the boat, walking on the water to go to Jesus. But, in face of the strong wind, he was afraid and began to sink. So he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and took hold of him, saying, "Man of little faith, why did you doubt?"

As they got into the boat, the wind dropped. Then those in the boat bowed down before Jesus saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God!"

Commentary

Courage, capacity to risk, sense of initiative, leadership, faith in Jesus, and capacity to accept and to laugh at their own mistakes and weaknesses are some of the expected traits in those applying to enter Claret Seminary in Quezon City. These also seem to be the requirements for all disciples of Christ. "Command me to go to you," asked Peter to Jesus. "Come," said Jesus. And Peter was able to walk on the waters at least for some moments. The gospel is not interested in emphasizing Peter's doubt, but his faith. Peter was the only disciple who dared to attempt something that seemed to be reserved for Jesus. He went through fears and doubts, moments of excitement and failures, and when he joined his companions again in the boat he was though soaked, the happiest of them.

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Gracia to write book: 'I want to tell the real story'

By Roy S. de Guzman
Contributor

"I WANT to tell the real story of our captivity—about our ordeal, about how it affected our relationship with each other and with God, and about our wonderful friends and family who worked so hard and prayed so faithfully for our release."

The best way to do this, former Abu Sayyaf hostage and American missionary Gracia Burnham decided, was to write a book about her year-long nightmare in the southern Philippine jungles.

"The men who abducted and held us, who murdered and mistreated human beings, who kept us running and starving in the jungle, are criminals and deserve to be punished," Burnham said of the kidnap-for-ransom group that is also being held responsible for the death of her husband and fellow missionary, Martin Burnham.

Martin and Filipino hostage Edibora Yap was killed in the firefight during rescue operations last June 7 in Zamboanga del Norte.

The book project was announced by Tyndale House Publishers, which succeeded in signing up Gracia through Doug Walton, its director of human resources and administrative services. Walton was Martin's best friend.

Gracia's book was guaranteed to have "immediate dramatic impact," as well as the staying power to become a classic, the publishers said in a statement.

To start with, they pointed out, Gracia had an amazing story to tell. Still, their excitement about the book grew "exponentially," they said, "as she pulled out letters and dreams that she and Martin wrote out during their captivity, and as she described herself as an ordinary person whose faith was proved genuine."

Tyndale said the book would be released in spring next year. Right now, Gracia was said to be learning how to use a laptop computer, on which to draft her text.

Gracia said aside from the book, her "mission" henceforth was to raise her three kids. "They need a full-time parent, and I'm it."

They plan to settle in Rose Hill, Kansas, near the home of the elder Burnhams where the children stayed while Martin and Gracia were in captivity.

7 soldiers hurt in clash with Abus

ZAMBOANGA CITY--Seven soldiers were wounded in a clash with Abu Sayyaf bandits allegedly under Galib Andang, alias Commander Robot, in Parang, Sulu, on Friday, the military reported yesterday.

"It was an intense two-hour firefight with Robot's group," Carolina told reporters here.

Carolina said soldiers from the 4th Infantry Battalion were patrolling Barangay Dacula when they encountered some 40 bandits.

He identified the wounded soldiers as Privates Luis Salarda and Reggie Suico, and Privates First Class Romeo Janalun, Haberhatab Aichil, Abdulhair Kalam, Ariel Enot and Aling Abduhaji.

Carolina said government troops are pursuing the bandits. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Estoppel—The essential elements of estoppel are: (1) the conduct of a party amounting to false representation or concealment of material facts or at least calculated to convey the impression that the facts are otherwise than, and inconsistent with, those which the party subsequently attempts to assert; (2) intent, or at least expectation, that this conduct shall be acted upon by, or at least influence, the other party; and (3) knowledge, actual or constructive, of the real facts. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Lim v. Queensland Tokyo Commodities, Inc., G.R. No. 136031, January 4, 2002]

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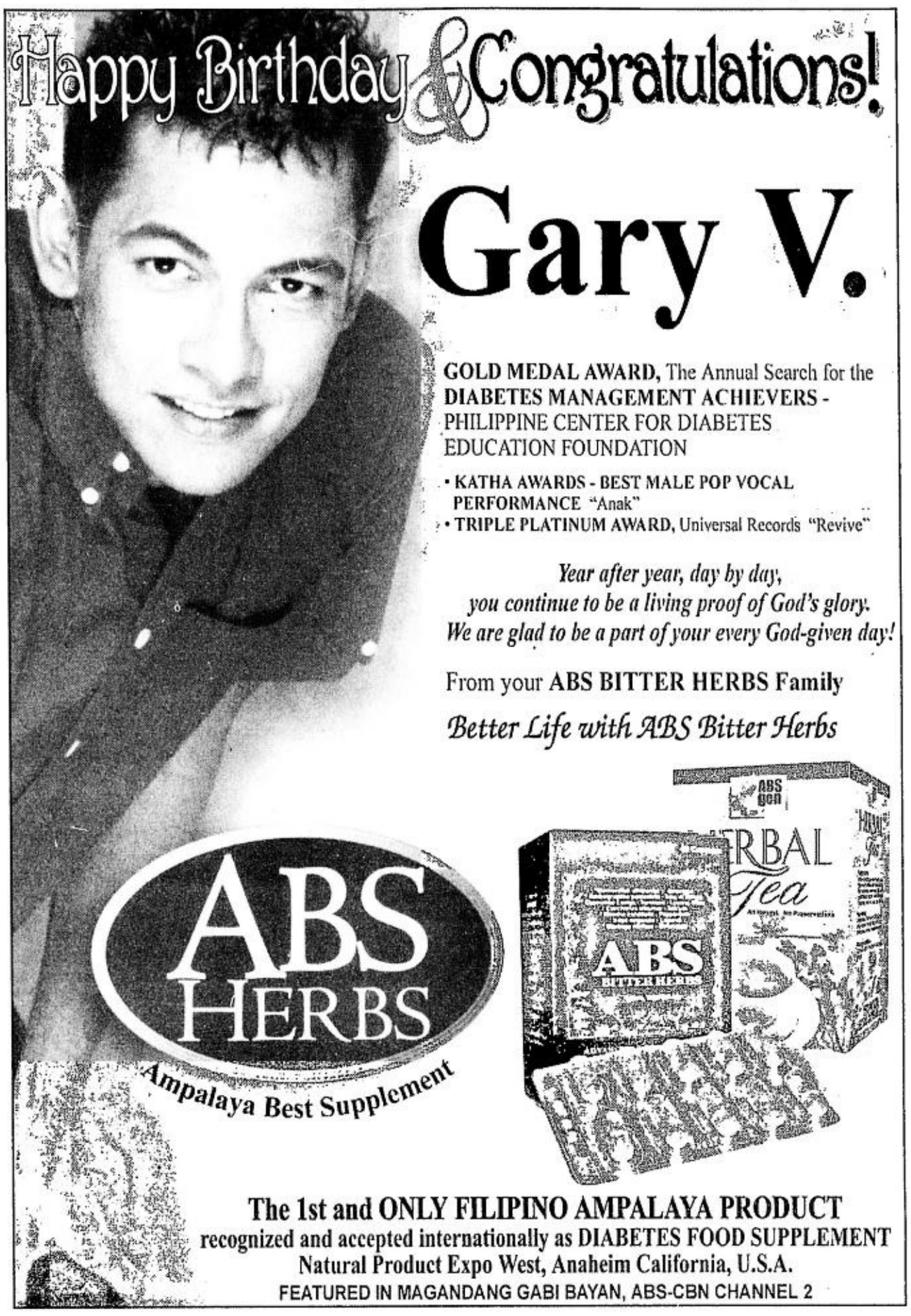

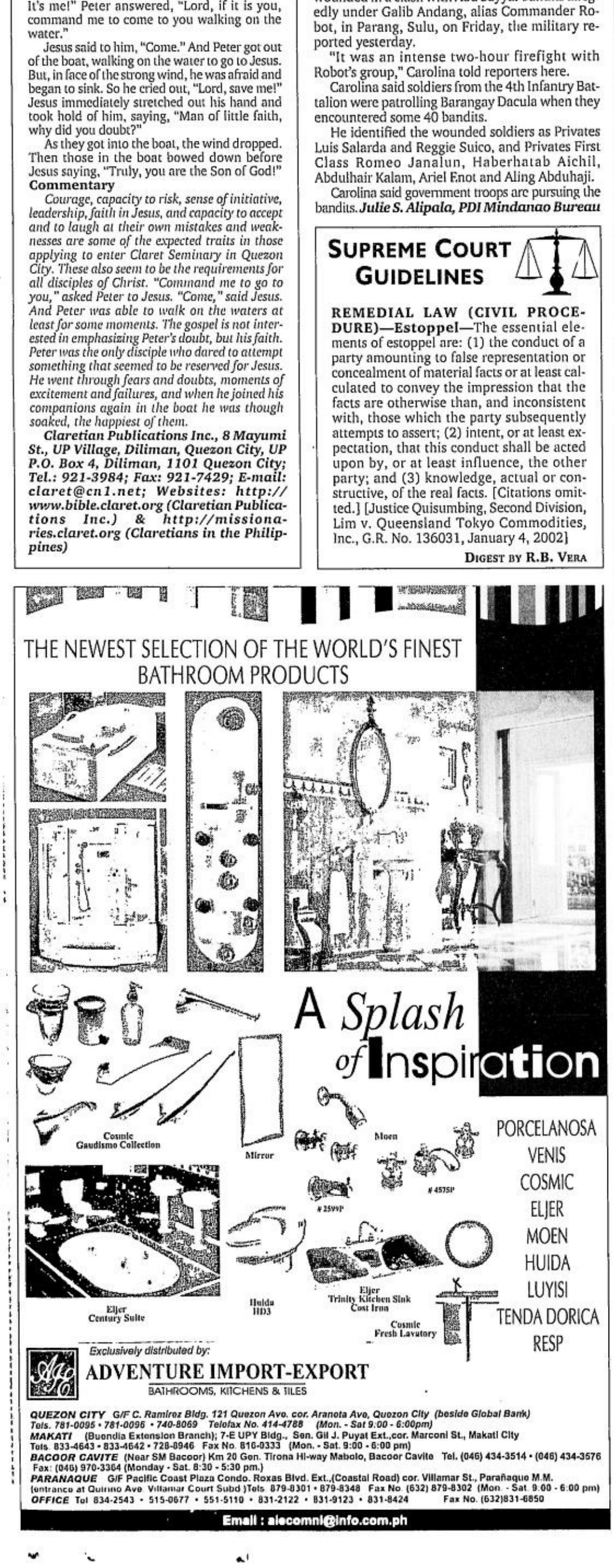

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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OPINION

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Hearts of gold

A SUICIDE bomber claimed the lives of nine persons in northern Israel a week ago today, one more act of sacrificial violence in a land already drenched in the blood of martyrs and victims. The dead included Filipino caregivers Adelina Cunanan and Rebecca Ruga, whose fate it was to stand right beside the bomber inside the crowded bus.

EDITORIALS When the specialists at the Abu Kabir morgue asked Mottie Elkavetz to describe Cunanan in an attempt to identify her remains, he replied: "Look for a person with a heart of gold."

Elkavetz knew Cunanan well, because she had been taking care of his 80-year-old mother Miriam for many years. His mother "did not stop crying," an Israeli newspaper reported the day after the bombing. "She left her children behind to come and care for old people," she was quoted as saying. "All she wanted (was) to help us."

Ruga's 72-year-old ward, Sima Kakun, paid similar tribute to her caregiver, calling Ruga "the woman who was always there to help."

For the families Cunanan and Ruga had to leave behind in order to work in Israel, their loss is impossible to plumb. Only last week, Cunanan's daughter Gladys was exchanging text messages with her mother about their plans for her debut next year. Ruga's sister Febe, herself a caregiver in Israel, had to break the news to her family in stages. That they will be unable to open the coffins for obvious reasons only adds to the depth of their sorrow. "What pains us more is the way she died," Ruga's mother Rosario said last week. "We won't even be able to see her burned remains." We dare to hope, however, that they find no small measure of consolation in the outpouring of grief and affection that has marked the passing of the two friends, on both sides of the continent. Yesterday's front-page photo, showing grieving Filipinos and Israelis sending off Cunanan and Ruga at the Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv, was nothing less than a family portrait of two extended families: the employers they had worked for, and the overseas contractuals they had worked with.

Out of their tragedy, however, inspiration has emerged. The country has found not only horror in their life story, but hope. Indeed, their personal narrative is positively biblical: they joined the modern Filipino exodus of overseas workers, wandered for years in the desert of poverty, died as innocents in the Holy Land. Their self-sacrifice was stark, but in their poverty they managed to become not only the breadwinners but the vital center of thriving if scattered families.

The town council of Minalin, Pampanga, where Cunanan hails from, has passed a resolution declaring her "a modern-day heroine," hailing "her courage to work under perilous circumstances." We know the same can be said of Ruga, and salute both of them.

Close to home

Quite literally, the deaths of Adelina Cunanan and Rebecca Ruga have brought the Palestinian-Israeli conflict home to the Philippines. Much of international news coverage about the strife in parts of Israel and Palestine has necessarily focused on the violence: the suicide bombings and the full-throttle Israeli military response. After a while, the pictures and the video footage begin to look the same: it is the banality of evil, in a new context.

Cunanan and Ruga give the life-or-death struggle, in particular the Israeli victims of Palestinian suicide bombings, an unexpected Filipino face. (More than 600 Israelis have died in 235 acts of violence in the last two years.)

It is worth noting, however, that Cunanan and Ruga were standing right next to the suicide bomber inside the bus. It was fate that brought them together, the common fate of the poor and powerless. Out of desperation, Palestinians have created a generation of suicide bombers. In similar straits, Filipinos have reinvented themselves as overseas workers.

We do not mean to make an idle comparison between the Palestinian struggle for nationhood and our own continuing war on poverty. We only want to belabor the obvious: More often than not, it is the small people who end up on the altar of sacrifice.

A cherished event

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

TODAY is the birth anniversary of two persons close to my heart. The first is my wife Sally, who is turning 71. The other is my grandson Claudio, who is now a teenager. May I tell you about them?

Sally was not yet 20 when I married her in 1952. She was then working at the US Veterans Administration, but I asked her to resign when she conceived a honeymoon baby. That was Cesar, our first-born, who was delivered by caesarean section. He was followed (at almost yearly intervals) by his four brothers, namely, Claro, Celso, Carlo, and Isagani, Jr. I had to name our *bunso* after me because I had run out of C names.

As if our breed were not enough already, Sally yearned to have a daughter, probably because she was outnumbered 6 to 1. (Joke only, she really wanted a baby girl to coddle.) She even walked on her knees in prayer until God granted her wish after seven years. I for my part was always available during all that time, and with undiminished energy.

Sally took care of all our children by herself; none of them had a *yaya*. She was particularly pleased with Candy, whom she dressed in pretty clothes and took with her to meet me at the Expo 70 in Tokyo when she was only three. None of the boys protested the favoritism because she was also their favorite and only sister.

My wife brought our children hot lunches in school until they reached college. She bought second-hand textbooks for them at Recto at considerable savings although with much patience and legwork too. She was a strict tutor and gave a lot of verbal (and sometimes physical) sparking when they failed to answer soon enough the flash arithmetic cards she flashed very fast. (The children were amazed at her skill until they discovered that she could read the answers on the reverse side of the cards.)

At one time, she sent Claro on an errand to the World Health Organization, and the boy said he did not know where it was. Sally flared and said, "You don't know the World Health Organization?" she scolded angrily. "The HWO?" When Claro smiled tentatively, the two dissolved in laughter and the feared punishment was averted.

Despite her strictness when it came to their lessons, she was also her sons' protector and intercessor. It was only after they had graduated that I learned about their misdemeanors and the disciplinary letters from UP that she intercepted and concealed from me. She also pleaded on their behalf and mitigated the sentences I would impose as *paterfamilias*. When each of them married later, she became the *sumbungan* of their respective spouses, whom she consistently sustained.

But for all the care she gave her children, I was to her the real baby of the family. During all these years, she has waited until I arrived late at night from my classes so we could eat supper together. She has always lined up for me at buffet meals, paring prawns and shrimps and *naghihimay ng alimango*. She gives me the drumstick and chooses only the wings. She quickly switches off the *bakya* shows to let me watch The Practice. She always looks at the price before ordering in a restaurant. She defers to what I want and smells especially nice at night. And for all her *pagbibigay*, she is still lovely at 71.

Last May 3, our children gave us the best ever-golden wedding anniversary present. They asked us to celebrate the event at a quiet dinner among ourselves only but we had to dress formally for a family picture. When we gathered at the assigned venue, I remarked that it was rather small, and Candy left to get a bigger site, to which she asked us to transfer. When Sally and I entered, we were welcomed with tremendous applause from some 200 guests who had connived with our children to surprise us.

Sally had to sit down as she shed tears of silent joy. The children had even prepared a program that, I hope, everybody appreciated. The food was perfect, and the quartet provided excellent and quiet chamber music. In my impromptu speech, I said I did not realize until then that I had a family of deceivers, as so also were our friends who had joined in the conspiracy. The audience especially liked it when I said that I loved my wife Sally more now than when I married her 50 years ago.

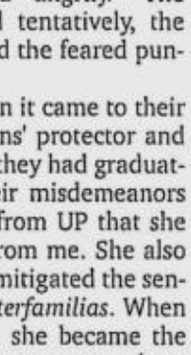
So what about Claudio? He is 13 today and a very handsome boy the girls will soon be pursuing. He seems to be more interested now in science and the information technology, but wait until he is 14. He is an intelligent lad who writes well and has an artistic spirit that made him say, when he was only 4 years old, that "the sun is smiling" and, later in the day, that "the clouds are burning." He will be using that kind of line with the girls when he is 15.

At his present age, Claudio faces a lifetime of interesting experiences that, at my venerable age, I will not be there to observe and write about. But I can still wish him now a bright and happy future where he will use his best talents to make something of himself in the service of God and country. Most of all, I pray for him a beautiful and virtuous wife like his Mom, Melanie, and, of course, his Grandma and my beloved wife, the exquisite and ever-ready Sally.

Happy birthday to my Best Friend and our grandson Claudio!

'When you walk through a storm . . .'

MOMENTS



Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

HAVE you heard that story about a tourist who inquired how much it would cost to rent a sightseeing boat in the Sea of Galilee?

He was told it would cost $100.

"Too expensive!" he cried. "No wonder Jesus walked on the water!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 14, 22-33) Jesus came walking on the sea to save His disciples.

Have you ever experienced being tossed about in a little boat with the wind so strong and the waves so high? In this helpless situation, there is really nothing you can do but pray and hope that the boat will hold and that the storm will pass.

Are you going through a storm in your life right now? Pray. Hope. Hold on.

* * *

There was one unforgettable experience I had the first time I took a boat ride in the Sea of Galilee. It was late afternoon and the sight was really beautiful. We were singing, praying, and praising God. Suddenly, there was a strong wind, and before we knew it, our boat was being buffeted by the waves. All the more we continued our prayers and praise. The larger the waves, the louder our praise. Then, as fast as it came, the storm suddenly died down, and everything was dead calm and quiet.

I asked the captain to turn off the engine. We all held hands in the silence and in the darkness. Jesus was so present in the boat. It was such a powerful experience and I can never forget its lesson: Jesus is present before the storm, especially so during the storm, and even after the storm.

May we always experience and feel Jesus' loving presence wherever we are. Do you feel His presence right now?

* * *

I still do not understand why Peter asked the Lord to command him to go to Him on the water while the storm was raging. Either he was driven by faith to run to the Lord in that desperate situation, or he was a coward who just wanted to save himself and was ready to abandon his companions in the sinking boat.

How about you and me? Why do we run to the Lord in times of trouble? What drives us? Is it faith or is it cowardice that makes us seek refuge in God? Do we run to God to run away from our problems?

In the end, what Jesus does is significant: He strengthens Peter's faith and brings him back to the boat. In other words, when we go to God, He strengthens our faith so that we will be able to go back and face our problems.

* * *

It is interesting to note that Jesus was immersed in prayer before the miracle on the lake. In fact, deep prayer preceded many of His great works. He drew His strength from His oneness with God. Note, too, that after He performed miracles, He would withdraw from the crowd and go to a lonely place to pray.

Do you draw strength from prayer? Are you running on an empty tank? Are you just going through the motions of life, while feeling so empty and drained inside? Try prayer. It works.

* * *

Jesus by His very example teaches us to pray much, and to pray always. Jesus prayed before, during, and after any event in His life. His whole life was one big prayer.

The problem with many of us is that we do not pray much or we do not pray at all. The other problem is that while it is true that we do pray, many of us are "specialists" in prayer, specializing only in petition prayers.

* * *

Just got this beautiful text message from Baby Revita: "Christ's presence does not keep the storm away, but He is with us in the storm. We are safer in danger with Christ, than in calmness without Him."

Jesus did not promise an absence of storms in our lives. What He promised is that He will be with us always.

I looked up the meaning of "always" in Webster's Dictionary, and they are as follows: "all the time"; "perpetually"; "forever". Just to make sure we really get the meaning of Jesus' promise, I looked up the Webster's Thesaurus, and found the following synonyms: "ceaselessly"; "constantly"; "continually"; "eternally"; "ever"; "forever"; "perpetually".

There I hope that this will convince you to believe that Jesus will be with you always.

* * *

Looking back, I have always felt the presence of the Lord all along, especially in the most difficult moments of my life. He was there, too, in light moments, but more so in dark moments, when there was nothing and no one to hold on to, except Him.

We do not remember the flash-bulb and klieg-light moments as much as the candle-glow moments in our lives, when one little candle made all the difference in the darkness all around. Treasure those moments. Draw strength from those moments, moments when the Lord embraced you, moments when the Lord whispered, "I Love You."

* * *

I am going back to Abra for a mission animation recollection at the Divine Word College, Bangued, on Aug. 17. I spent a year in the missions of Abra as a young priest in 1983, and I treasure many candle-glow (literally, no electricity!) moments when I experienced poverty, deprivation and loneliness, but so much peace and assurance from God and from the simple people. What I can never forget is that the Lord was always there, stretching out His hand to hold me.

That is the only image we need to remember as we walk on through life, especially when we walk through a storm.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, when I walk through a storm, help me to hold my head up high and hold on to You. Amen.

Men of great desires

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.,
Institute on Church and Social Issues

ON ST. Ignatius Day, July 31, the Jesuit community of the Ateneo de Manila commemorated its transfer, 50 years ago, from its former campus on Padre Faura to Loyola Heights. The transfer was the climax of years of debate, planning, disappointments and agonizing decision-making on the part of Frs. William Masterson and James McMahon.

Fr. Masterson as rector-president of the Ateneo was a man of "great desires" as envisioned by St. Ignatius, who would not be deterred by difficulties or opposition. He dreamed of moving from downtown Manila out to a wilderness of cogon grass and Hukbalahap guerrillas, where a Sherman tank and a sandbagged machine gun position at the corner of Aurora Boulevard and Katipunan waited for the Huks to come up from Marikina. This was a place where, he was told, no parents would ever send their sons.

Fr. Masterson faced strong opposition within the Jesuit community, opposition so severe that the father general of the Jesuits sent his own representative, who after studying the situation supported the move to Loyola Heights. Then major financial difficulties arose when the promised war damage payments were delayed and creditors were demanding immediate payment. This eventually brought Masterson to the verge of a nervous breakdown, it seems, and he was suddenly taken out of office and succeeded by Fr. James McMahon.

Yet Fr. Masterson, newly assigned to the Ateneo de Cagayan in Cagayan de Oro, instead of licking his wounds and retiring from challenges and risk, focused on the urgent need for agricultural development in the country and in Southeast Asia. He bought a piece of "worthless" land on the mountain overlooking the city, and went on to found an agricultural school with an extension service and a training center for agricultural development workers from all of Southeast Asia. When told that the land was barren and would grow nothing, he replied that that was just what was needed for an agricultural school; all the good land was already taken and farmers needed to know how to farm third-class land. Thus I find it revealing that the theme song he chose for his training institute was from "The Man from La Mancha": "To dream the impossible dream/ To fight the unbeatable foe/ To bear with unbearable sorrow/ To reach the unreachable star."

Years later as that hilltop developed into the Forbes Park of Cagayan, as Loyola Heights has developed, businessmen were known to joke that when Fr. Masterson bought property, it would be wise to buy some right next to it.

He was succeeded at the Ateneo by Fr. James McMahon, young and handsome and always calm and self-possessed. Somehow Fr. McMahon managed to keep the ship afloat and moved the Ateneo to Loyola Heights. It was only years later, when he suffered a complete mental breakdown from which he never recovered, that we began to suspect the tension that had lain hidden behind his calm exterior and the price which he had paid for his service to the Ateneo and the nation.

In terms of space, it is only a few hundred meters from the Jesuit Residence to the Ateneo's new Church of the Gesu, which was dedicated on St. Ignatius Day, but in time it is 50 years. I have always believed that a unifying symbol dominating the campus would be appropriate, signifying the Ignatian ideal of finding God in all things, including the immensely varied activities of a major educational institution. I very much liked the early plan to put a chapel on the highest point on the campus, the brow of the hill where a dormitory now stands, with a picture window behind the altar looking out over what were then the rice fields of the Marikina Valley. I believed that the Eucharist lifted up against that backdrop would symboliże the offering to God of all human effort: the drudgery of rice farming, the intellectual work of the campus, even the struggle for social justice of the Huks across the valley in the Sierra Madre.

With regard to the new university church, however, I have feared that because of its size and expense, especially at this difficult moment in the nation's history, it could be taken as a symbol of social insensitivity. I find it hard to imagine offering up on its altar, amid the signs of affluence of the Ateneo campus, the sufferings of our excluded brothers and sisters at Payatas and in the rural areas.

On the other hand, symbols can have many meanings; the cross of Christ can be seen as a symbol of defeat and disgrace, of triumph, of love. Meanings are not formed in steel and concrete, they arise from the witness of lives and must be constantly validated by such witness. Thus, the meaning which will ultimately be attached to the university church will be determined by the lives of those who live and work and study on the campus. Will they be seduced by the trappings of affluence, accept the system which offers them privileged places of comfort and security? Or will they have the vision, the concern for the unfortunate, the willingness to risk and to do battle which characterized Fr. Masterson, and the courage of Fr. McMahon?

The challenges of today are different from but no less demanding than those they faced 50 years ago.

Puzzling inward migration to RP

COMMENTARY

Raul Palabrica

IF the recent survey finding of Pulse Asia is to be believed, 19 percent of Filipinos will, if given the opportunity, emigrate elsewhere because of unfavorable living conditions in the country.

At the top of the survey respondents' grievance list is their frustration with the workings of the existing political system. A seemingly unmanageable peace and order problem, economic hardships and government inefficiency add to the dissatisfaction.

But as hundreds of Filipinos fly out daily to places where they think they can earn a living or start a new life, scores of Korean and Chinese nationals have been entering the country for the same reasons that motivate our countrymen to leave.

Haven't you noticed the proliferation of Korean restaurants, groceries and other commercial establishments in the commercial areas of Manila, Quezon City, Makati and other Metro Manila cities? The Koreans and their ubiquitous signage are everywhere. They seem to have taken over the places that were once occupied by Chinese-Filipino entrepreneurs.

On a major street in BF Homes, Parañaque, for example, you will find either a Korean diner, grocery, travel agency, taekwando gym or distributor of used Korean appliances in every five or six houses. Some residents have described that commercial strip as "Korean territory."

As if the commercial presence were not enough, the nascent Korean community has built its own religious centers that bear names that reflect the cultural origin of its members.

Chinese influx

Joining the Koreans in their silent migration to the Philippines are Chinese nationals who come in as tourists and later disappear in the bowels of Divisoria or Binondo in Manila.

Their inability to speak Filipino has not deterred them from putting up stalls in those commercial centers, including the Rizal Park at the Luneta, to sell various Chinese-made goods and merchandise. They are able to sell their products with the use of the sign language or small writing pads where they write the prices of their wares.

Filipino traders have already complained about the heavy losses they suffered in the hands of their Chinese competitors.

Unlike the Koreans whose physical features are different from those of ordinary Filipinos, the Chinese nationals blend easily with the community. Only their inability to speak the national language raises doubts about the legitimacy of their presence in the country.

So disturbing has the surge in illegal Chinese migration been that the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation conducts periodic inspection sorties into places where Chinese nationals are known to be engaged in business. The number of undocumented Chinese arrested has become a cause for concern.

Economic giants

After Japan, China is considered (and prides itself as) the most economically developed country in this part of the world. South Korea may not be as rich as China but, in terms of productivity and financial sufficiency, it is not very far behind.

Aside from their economic strength, the two countries have a common denominator: Their citizens are known for their strong nationalism and willingness to sacrifice personal interests for the good of their country.

Why some citizens of two of the strongest economies in Asia want to leave their countries and put up stakes in the Philippines is a puzzler of sorts. While many Filipinos are exiting to escape unfavorable social and economic conditions, Chinese and Korean nationals are coming to the country.

Why are they abandoning their own green pastures in favor of a place whose economic development is nowhere near that of their homeland?

There must be strong reasons for making that sacrifice.

Justification

One possible reason is that they want to enjoy the country's democratic space. China suffers tremendously in this area. Free speech, press freedom and the right to assemble for redress of grievances are taboo in China. The Chinese Communist Party controls virtually every aspect of the lives of the Chinese people.

It is doubtful, however, if the desire to breath the democratic air motivated the Chinese nationals into coming to the Philippines. They have immersed themselves in commercial activities. They have not engaged in political acts that would show their desire to exercise the rights inherent in a democracy.

In South Korea's case, democratic rule has taken strong roots there. Its press may not be as free as that of the Philippines, but it has proven to be effective and vigilant. It's a tribute to the strength of its democratic institutions that it was able to swiftly prosecute and punish two of its former presidents.

Contrast this to our country where the prosecution of a former president for plunder has been dragging for more than one year already. Worse, there is no certainty that even if convicted he will be punished.

To claim that the Koreans now living in our country prefer the Philippine-brand of democracy to the no-nonsense character of their own is to engage in wishful thinking. Strike out democracy as the motivating factor for their migration.

That leaves economic reasons as the principal cause of the recent Chinese and Korean influx. They probably believe there are better business opportunities here than in their homeland. They foresee a good future for trade and commerce.

Their optimism about future economic prosperity remains strong in spite of the kidnappings, inadequate public infrastructure, corrupt public officials and all the problems of governance that many Filipinos have cited as excuses for leaving the country for supposedly greener pastures elsewhere in the world.

No doubt, the Chinese and Korean economic migrants know the problems besetting our country. But they also see its potentials for growth and development. And they are willing to invest their time, money and effort for the opportunity to get a piece of the "golden egg" that the Philippines can provide.

They must know something about this country that our countrymen, especially those who have given up on it, do not know as to inspire them to leave the safety of their native land to try their luck here.

They probably believe the expected rewards from that move will more than compensate for the sacrifices they have to make in living and working in a society with a social and political culture totally different from theirs.

What irony! Some foreigners have a better outlook on the Philippines than its own citizens.

The HIV/AIDS 'family'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I DON'T know what it says about the size and composition of the community, but when I flew into Bacolod Thursday to take part in the First Visayas Convention on HIV/AIDS, I saw so many familiar faces that I thought I was back in Manila. And to think the theme of the gathering was "Strengthening Local Initiatives."

Then again, the presence of so many Manila-based anti-AIDS activists, advocates, policy-makers and caregivers, along with their counterparts in Western, Eastern and Central Visayas, could be a testimony to the solidarity and commitment of those involved in the fight against AIDS.

Among them is Edith Yotoko-Villanueva, whom I first met many years ago when, as chair of the HOPE Foundation, she invited me to Bacolod to give a talk to the local media on reporting on HIV/AIDS. Since then, Edith has served a term in Congress, and when she lost her reelection bid, dove right back into NGO work. She chaired the steering committee of the convention in her capacity as convenor of AIDS Council-NOW, or the AIDS Council for Negros Occidental Welfare.

She is also its biggest booster. "Rina, you must write about this convention!" she pleaded when she found me outside the function room. "Everyone has simply been inspiring!"

Though supposedly regional in scope, the convention drew on a nationwide network for the sharing of "best practices" as well as lessons learned in the decade-old struggle to heighten awareness about AIDS and make people better understand the disease and its implications. In the session on "Women Trafficking and Prostitution: The HIV Connection," for instance, the other speakers aside from myself were Bacolod Councilor and DAWN Foundation executive director Celia Flor, and Eunice Casiple, executive director of Talikala Foundation, which works with women commercial sex workers in Davao.

* * *

FLOR spoke on her efforts, as chair of the committee on women and family relations, to temper the mere "law enforcement" aspects of Bacolod City's drive against prostitution. "For now, the city government's main approach to the problem is launching saturation drives," she noted ruefully, raising concerns about the human rights aspects of police raids and mass arrests, which target the women sex workers while letting the real profiteers—club owners and managers, pimps and even customers—get off with hardly a reprimand.

Casiple's presentation was titled "From Bondage to Bonding: Organizing Women in Prostitution." During the open forum, someone wanted to know why it was so difficult to convince the women to leave sex work and take up other occupations. Even when college scholarships are given to some women in prostitution, the participant pointed out, some of them still return to sex work even after they have earned their degrees.

Casiple acknowledged that this happened even to some members of Talikala. "What happens is that we may be able to convince some women to leave that line of work and see them through college," she said. "But when they graduate, they find that there are no jobs available," which is not surprising in an environment of severe job scarcity. So they choose to return to sex work, since not even a college degree is a guarantee against starvation. "This is not a simple problem with simple solutions," Flor declared.

As I pointed out, when a student wanted to know what local governments proposed to do about the growth of the sex industry, prostitution is in fact illegal in this country. But local governments find themselves funding social hygiene clinics for women in prostitution, and licensing and regulating—and taxing!—clubs and bars which serve as fronts for prostitution, and even brothels.

* * *

A FUNNY thing happened on my way to Bacolod.

I missed my flight, which is not really surprising to those familiar with my problems with time management. It was a bad start to a really hectic day, as I was planning to fly back to Manila that afternoon so that the hubby and I could then hop onto a bus for an overnight trip to Laoag.

I "texted" Celia Flor in Bacolod even while I was still stuck on Edsa to ask her if there were later flights I could catch in time for my talk at 2:30 p.m. There was another PAL flight at 11 a.m., she told me, but when I reached the Centennial airport, the counter people said the next flight to Bacolod would be at 5 p.m. So off I rushed to the Air Philippines office to wait for confirmation of my ticket which my friends would buy for me in Bacolod. Miracle of miracles, the computer system actually worked, and in no time at all, the pleasant young man at the counter was handing me a one-way ticket to Bacolod.

* * *

MY PAL flight back to Manila was scheduled at 5:30 p.m., more than enough time, I thought, to drive from the airport to the Maria de Leon bus terminal in Dapitan. But when I reached Bacolod airport, there was a sign informing us that the time of departure had been pushed back to 7 p.m.! The bus was scheduled to leave at 9:45 p.m., and would arrive at Laoag about 6 a.m. the next day. The seminar on campus journalism, to which the hubby and I were invited as speakers, would start at 9 a.m. I may have exceeded my quota of good fortune that day, because we did make it, with minutes to spare, to the bus terminal.

And so I'm writing this column in Laoag, having finished the first day of an exhaustive and exhausting seminar (for the students, too, I suppose) for almost 200 high school and elementary students from private schools from all over Ilocos Norte. Just one more stop in a life on the road.

The PR puff approach to crime

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE PRESIDENT has explained why she is taking the initiative of personally presenting criminal suspects to the media. By her presence, she says, the apprehension of criminals is given the widest media projection.

There are three reasons why this is being done, says the President. The first is to teach criminals a lesson by exposing them to public humiliation. The second is to inform the public that the police are doing their job and to show appreciation for their work. And the third is to send a message to criminals that their days are numbered because this government is serious in its campaign against criminality.

There is probably a fourth unstated reason: To project the image of a tough hands-on president bent on establishing a strong republic by ridding the country of criminals and terrorists.

It was her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, who, as head of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, cultivated an enduring image as number one crime-buster by means of the photo op. He was the compassionate father when he ate in the humble dwellings of slum dwellers. But he was the unforgiving supreme law-enforcer when he dealt with criminals. The image his publicists created was archetypal; it suited Erap's film persona and served him well. It is obvious in whose footsteps President Macapagal-Arroyo is trying to follow.

Human rights activists have correctly questioned the legality of this presidential habit. Arrested suspects who are presented to the media have not yet been convicted. Under our legal system, they are entitled to the presumption of innocence until they are found guilty by a proper court of law. Not even the President can claim the right to punish mere suspects by subjecting them to public humiliation. In more civilized societies, the names of suspects are, as a rule, omitted in media reports to protect their identities.

One can sympathize with the President's impatience over the apparent inability of the police to stop crime. But this inability hardly has anything to do with the lack of publicity of police apprehensions. The problem is more basic. Many police officers are either in collusion with criminal gangs or are extremely vulnerable to bribery. The few good ones among the police are too ill equipped and poorly trained to go after criminals. On top of that, there is often no adequate protection for witnesses. And little care is given to preserve important evidence needed to prosecute offenders, especially the wealthy and well-connected ones.

The cure for all these is clearly not to be found in a heightened public relations campaign led by the President, but in a sustained and comprehensive reform of the entire social organization of law-enforcement.

To point out these issues is not to defend the rights of criminals or to mock the pain of their victims. It is rather to defend a philosophy of order that compels us to retain our humanity even when we have to deal with the barbaric acts of fellow human beings who have gone astray. It is also to remind us of the substantive distinction between initiatives in support of reform and initiatives in support of public image.

There is another aspect to these media presentations that is disturbing. Those who have followed the well-publicized police operations after the President sounded the call for a "strong republic" may have noticed that almost all the suspected criminals paraded before the media seem to come from the lower classes of our society. They are obviously the foot soldiers of crime. Pirated compact discs have been hauled out of warehouses by the hundreds of thousands in the past few weeks but no big-time manufacturer has been arrested by the police or presented to the President. Illegal gambling dens have been raided but none of the big-time financiers who run these operations and who are known to the public have been apprehended.

The government has announced that more than 300 establishments have failed to remit value-added tax (VAT) payments, and that they will soon be charged in court. Tax evasion is a criminal offense, but no tax-evader from the upper classes has ever been singled out for public humiliation. A number of prominent politicians and business personalities are owners of the notorious independent power producers (IPPs) that pulled some of the most shameless deals in our nation's history. None of them has been arrested or presented to the media. For that matter, has any big-time smuggler ever been arrested in recent years? Their offense may be construed as plunder and is definitely more injurious to the national welfare than the petty crimes of the poor.

Yet unless the President begins to present criminal suspects from the ranks of the elite, her claim to toughness as the country's chief law enforcer will be met with skepticism. After all, tax evasion, tax diversion, smuggling, illegal gambling, plunder, and the billion-peso trade in illegal drugs are not the domain of working-class criminals. They are rather the preserve of those who already enjoy enormous political influence and wealth. The top bosses of these deviant domains also happen to be, not surprisingly, the biggest contributors to electoral campaigns. Their arrest and conviction will provide the biggest boost to the rule of law in our society.

A strong republic is not built by power-puff press conferences but by the quiet and steady professionalization of state agencies and the entrenchment of a culture of law.

* * *

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TALK of the TOWN

Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

Are we turning into a police state?

IN HER eagerness to project herself as a crime-buster, President Macapagal-Arroyo presented to the media a bank cashier as a suspect in a P200-million tax diversion scam. It turned out that the Landbank cashier was the whistle blower.

Despite the boo-boo and criticisms of human rights violation, the President did not apologize to the cashier. Instead, Ms Macapagal said she would continue to present before the public suspected criminals "to teach them the lesson of humiliation if necessary."

Her high-profile approach to crime is part of her efforts to build a "strong republic," which include asking Congress to pass an anti-terrorism bill. The measure seeks to allow the police to detain a suspected terrorist for up to 76 hours, to tap phones and the Internet and to look into and freeze assets.

The President is also enlisting the help of US forces in the war against terrorists and insurgents. She has even lifted the maximum tolerance policy on street protests and resorted to calling some of her critics communists.

These and reports that a growing number of people belonging to militant groups are being summarily executed in the countryside have civil libertarians saying that the threat of a police state is now upon us.

'She's building the legal infrastructure for a national security state'

By Jayson S. Lamchek
Associate, Public Interest Law Center

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's "strong state" rhetoric against criminality and terrorism is basically a pre-season gimmickry for 2004.

She is aware that a Dirty Harry image sells, and with the United States fuelling the "war on terror" hype around the world, tough talk on terrorism is the easiest way to be popular. But this gimmickry, however, is a particularly irresponsible one because of its grim consequences for constitutional rights.

The case of the presidential "photo-op" victim, the whistle-blowing Land Bank employee erroneously presented to the tri-media like she was herself a big-time criminal caught for the President to brag about, is the most recent illustration of this irresponsibility and lack of regard for the right to be presumed innocent and the right to privacy.

Photo-op victim

Unfortunately, the "photo-op" victim's case does not even summarize the cost to human rights of the "strong republic." The President is asking Congress to enact an anti-terrorism legislation ostensibly to build "empowered institutions" against terrorism similar to the so-called USA Patriot Act.

Human rights groups have rightly raised a howl over the sort of "powers" contemplated in the proposals pending in Congress. In one bill (HB 3802), the police are allowed to detain a person suspected of terrorism for up to 76 hours without charges being brought against that person. Under existing laws, detention without charges for 36 hours even for those suspected of heinous crimes is considered arbitrary and illegal.

Section 10 of the bill seeks to authorize enforcement officers to "tap wire or cable, or secretly overhear, intercept, or record communication through the Internet and electronic mails or spoken word" if there are "reasonable grounds" to intercept or obstruct terrorism. Section 13 authorizes the freezing of "terrorist" assets, and no temporary restraining order or writ of injunction against a freeze order can be issued by the courts.

The harshness of these measures are compounded by the fact that the offense itself, "terrorism," is defined vaguely to encompass almost any act involving force, violence or intimidation which would either "create or sow common danger or a state of terror, fear, panic, and chaos on the general public," to "coerce or intimidate the public or the government" or "to undermine the confidence of the public in the government."

Under the USA Patriot Act, "domestic terrorism" is more simply, though just as vaguely, defined as "any activity within the territorial jurisdiction of the US that violates federal law or the law of any state and that is intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, or to influence government policy."

Street parties

An assistant director of the FBI could therefore claim, in effect, that street dancing could be considered terrorism when he charged that "Reclaim the Streets," a network of people that seizes streets and other public spaces for protests and dance parties without obtaining legally required permits, was a terrorist organization.

Given Ms Macapagal's aversion to rallies without permits and the "maximum tolerance" rule and her penchant for painting her critics as Abu Sayyaf lovers or communists, persons who exercise their right to petition the government for redress of grievances or the right to strike should consider themselves flirting with a charge of terrorism.

The President may only be meaning to appear as tougher on crime than Panfilo Lacson in the next presidential race, or to further cash in on her "contribution" to the US "war on terror," but she is actually building the legal infrastructure for a national security state.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA
PAGE DESIGN: ERNIE SAMBO

The "photo-op" victim's case does not even summarize the cost to human rights of the "strong republic"

'On the coattails of the American jihad'

By Roland G. Simbulan
Professor, University of the Philippines and co-convenor, Gathering for Peace

THE MORE accurate question is, are we again riding on the coattails of the United States, which, in its declaration of war after Sept. 11 on international terrorists, has launched its own jihad against its perceived enemies? The consequences are grim.

The US government is rounding up thousands of immigrants without due process and detaining them for secret trials. The USA Patriot Act is waging war without limits of time and space and has introduced new police state restrictions threatening the very right of Americans to dissent. The hollow promise of safety and security has stifled the right to question and articulate.

Minority report

The very freedoms and liberties that democratic governments claim to be fighting for are being eroded. Pre-criminals and pre-terrorists in the United States and overseas can be arrested and imprisoned by President George W. Bush's borderless armed forces (a development foreseen perhaps by the Spielberg film "Minority Report" in which persons who have yet to commit a crime are promptly rounded up?) on mere suspicion that they are about to commit acts of terrorism.

The Philippines is one of the countries suffering from similar policies that are the consequence of the American jihad. It is being made to violate its own Constitution to make way for "Balikatan military exercises," which are in fact field operations in combat zones.

Now, Filipinos are also being deceived with an unconstitutional military-to-military "accounting agreement" like the Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA) that will allow the setting up of US military facilities and infrastructure to house military supplies, logistical depots and refueling installations, armaments and other weapons of mass destruction.

US forces will use these for military operations in the country, which will serve as a staging area against other countries like Iran, Iraq, North Korea and Libya. These countries have diplomatic ties with the Philippines but refuse to be bullied by the United States.

The "war on terrorism" is already trying to deceive our people into accepting secret "accounting" agreements like the MLSA.

Muslims and so-called Arab-looking types are being rounded up without arrest warrants, or even threatened with Duterte's "final solution." Soon even critical thought, resistance to injustice and speaking out against the machinery of war and repression could be defined as "terrorism" or "association with terrorism." This is already happening in many parts of the United States, especially against Arab, Muslim and South Asian immigrants.

Does the era of wiretapping and e-mail tapping for purposes of political control mean that we are developing into a full-fledged "strong state?" And for whom is it? The US corporate elite and their Filipino counterparts.

US trained

More and more, the Bush administration will increase its aid to the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the form of military technology, laying the groundwork for the expansion of US-Philippine military cooperation. This is all designed to put up more Philippine Army counter-insurgency units directed by US Seals and Ranger advisers and trainors.

Expect more US special forces directly involved in counter-insurgency missions, including monitoring and intelligence missions, most of them secret. The MLSA will allow the United States to set up radar facilities on Philippine soil to detect "terrorist" and insurgent" activity. Some of these sites may be located on Philippine Army installations, but will be manned by US military personnel and US "civilian technicians," as they are allowed under the Visiting Forces Agreement.

As political and civil dissent increases in light of our economic crisis and continuing neglect of rural areas, expect the Army and police to take a more active role in dealing with civil unrest, which will be treated as "terrorist-inspired" or "terrorist-infiltrated."

We will witness changes in our laws. Legislation in the form of anti-terrorism acts and resurrected or rehashed anti-subversion laws will be provided as the legal basis for the "strong republic" or "strong state" based on legalized repression.

Failed strategy

Since US assistance will be overwhelmingly military in nature, it will only continue a failed strategy against rebellion. US military trainers think that what they offer their Philippine counterparts in the form of war fighting skills and sophisticated technology can lick the less sophisticated guerrilla army of the poor.

More than any military solution, we must find solutions to mass poverty and social injustice through a healthy and pluralistic political process, and an empowered citizenry rather than the use of military force to solve these problems. We cannot have resurrected Hitlers or Marcoses crying wolf and eating the flock themselves.

But state barbarism would be answered by the people's concerted and united action. The victory of people's revolutions and uprisings shows that when that state of tyranny is reached, even the most vicious repression using the most advanced technology cannot safeguard the repressive state. Soon, all the propaganda about the threat of terrorism will fade out as people realize that the wolf that cries wolf is their true enemy.

Ironically, too, the "free market" of globalization will soon see the rise of what the Russian philosopher Nikolai Bukharin had predicted for capitalism: "Thus arises the final type of contemporary robber state, an iron organization which envelopes the living body of society in its grasping paws. It is a new Leviathan before which the fantasy of Thomas Hobbes seems child's play."

The threat of a police state is now with us.

'The administration fails to distinguish criminals from critics'

By Liza Largoza-Maza
Partylist Representative, Bayan Muna

HAVING owed her presidency to sustained mass mobilizations that culminated in People Power II, one would think President Macapagal-Arroyo would build her strong republic on the foundation of strong public support emanating from pro-people policies. However, all indicators point otherwise.

The lifting of the maximum tolerance policy on legitimate expressions of grievances shows her scorn for public opinion and disregard for people's demands being presented in these actions. In lieu of this basic ingredient in a democracy is the implementation of a no-permit, no-rally policy that legitimizes violent dispersals and mass arrest of protesters.

Expressions of dissent in the rural areas meanwhile, receive harsher penalties under the Macapagal administration. Members and leaders of organized peasant groups are easily dismissed as supporters of the New People's Army, immediately earning them a place in the military's order of battle.

The likes of Rodriga Apolinar and Manuela Albarillo, members and leaders of Gabriela-Mindoro (an organization Ms Macapagal earlier claimed to have been a member herself) have allegedly been killed by Cafgu and military elements. For organizing communities and expressing grievances, they have reportedly been marked as terrorists and open military targets. Apparently, summary execution and extrajudicial killing have been adopted as a policy by the military in place of due process.

The marked erosion of civilian authority in areas like Mindoro, Basilan and Zamboanga in the guise of pursuing all-out war against terrorism has led to the exodus of communities and human rights violations. The Mangyans and Dumagats in certain barangays in Mindoro and Antipolo respectively, have fled their homes for fear of their lives.

We also need to mention the systematic repression of legal and legitimate people's organizations and political parties, like Bayan Muna. To date, the death toll for Bayan Muna barangay and municipal coordinators has gone up to 24.

Strong-arm tactics

All this indicates that strong-arm tactics reminiscent of the martial law years form the core of the Macapagal administration's essentially weak republic. Because the government continues to implement policies that exacerbate poverty, unemployment, landlessness and lack of social services, people's protests perpetually hang like the sword of Damocles over her head.

Thus, all out-war remains the President's only recourse, dismissing other venues for redress and negotiations. The scuttling of peace talks between the National Democratic Front and the government proves that for Ms Macapagal, militarism is the only way to address armed conflict caused by social injustice and inequities.

Therefore, it is not surprising that the President has endorsed the Anti-Terrorism bill as a priority measure aimed at quelling resistance from various sectors.

Equation

The bill, filed in both houses of Congress, emulates the USA Patriot Act and virtually legitimizes state-instigated terrorism against the people. It broadly defines "terrorism," falling into the danger of adopting the equation: critic is equal to protester is equal to communist is equal to terrorist.

This equation poses a grave danger even to workers fighting for their rights to decent wages and job security. The President recently vowed to "wage war against criminals, terrorists, drug addicts, kidnappers, smugglers and those who terrorize factories that provide jobs."

And it is no coincidence that the propaganda campaign is being laid down to make this perverted equation more acceptable to the public. Even Ms Macapagal herself has resorted to name-calling and red-baiting for every criticism she receives.

What is even more alarming is that the President has found a perfect excuse for the US-led global war on terrorism. She invited the United States to use our land, sea and airspace through the RP-US Balikatan Joint Military Exercise. Now, the impending MLSA offers permanent basing for US troops, contravening the sovereignty provision of the Constitution.

Likewise, the President is attempting to by-pass and/or negate the ratification function of the Senate by unilaterally defining MLSA as a mere executive agreement.

Many have raised concerns that intensified US military intervention through these agreements heightens the vulnerability of the people to human rights abuses, as shown in the reports of the recently concluded International Solidarity Mission in Basilan.

Human rights violations justified in the guise of a US-led anti-terrorism campaign reflect an authoritarian mindset and a militarist approach.

The Macapagal administration now fails to distinguish criminals from critics, felony from dissent, terrorists from communists. All indications point that authoritarian rule—the erosion of democracy and civil liberties—is the President's formula for a strong republic.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Iraq opposition presents plan to oust Saddam

WASHINGTON—A coalition of Iraqi opposition groups on Friday presented senior US officials with a plan to overthrow Saddam Hussein's "dictatorial regime" and pledged to hold a conference to outline a blueprint to bring democracy to Iraq.

Leaders of six groups under the umbrella organization the Iraqi National Congress met Secretary of State Colin Powell for several minutes, then huddled for two hours of talks with senior officials from the State Department and the Pentagon.

On Saturday, they are due to hold talks via a video link with Vice President Dick Cheney from his vacation hideaway in Wyoming, amid fresh speculation that President George W. Bush's administration is planning an attack against Saddam's regime.

Powell told the opposition leaders at the State Department that "our shared goal is that the Iraqi people should be free," a US official said on condition of anonymity.

In turn, they impressed upon their hosts, the need to dispense with Saddam Hussein.

"We have presented our vision for overthrowing the dictatorial regime in Iraq and the establishment of a democratic and pluralistic government," said Hamid al-Bayati, of the Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution (SCIRI).

"We have agreed to convene a meeting of the Iraqi opposition in consultation with all opposition elements, ensuring sufficient representation for all the Iraqi people and their political forces which are opposed to the dictatorship," he said.

The Iraqi opposition leaders, several of whom were represented by deputies, said that the two-hour-long meeting with US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Marc Grossman and Undersecretary of Defense Douglas Feith was "important and constructive."

The State Department said in a statement that the contacts, billed as a chance to coordinate strategies with disparate Iraqi opposition groups represented an important step towards a post-Saddam Iraq.

"The US and the Iraqi opposition share a vision of a better future for the Iraqi people after the departure of Saddam Hussein and his regime," deputy spokesperson Philip Reeker said.

"Our vision is for a democratic Iraq with a government that respects the rights of its citizens and the rule of law, no longer threatens its neighbors, renounces the development and possession of weapons of mass destruction, and maintains the territorial integrity of the country."

"We believe this is a goal shared by the international community," Reeker said, despite growing indications that many US allies are uneasy with apparent US plans to overthrow Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime, one third of Bush's "axis of evil" along with Iran and North Korea.

The United States accuses Saddam of developing weapons of mass destruction and supporting international terrorism. *AFP*

BUT FANS WON'T FORGET AP
Charlton Heston is seen as Moses in "The Ten Commandments," in this 1955 publicity file photo. Heston revealed Aug. 9 that doctors have told him he has symptoms consistent with Alzheimer's disease.

3 Palestinians die in fresh Gaza violence

GAZA CITY—Three more Palestinians died in the Gaza Strip overnight, capping a week of unabated violence there, as a high-ranking delegation held talks in Washington on reform of the Palestinian security apparatus.

Fresh violence erupted in the Gaza Strip, when Israeli tanks shelled houses in the autonomous southern town of Khan Yunis early Saturday, injuring eight Palestinians, including four children, medical sources said.

A teenager who sustained serious head injuries two days ago following clashes with the Israeli army, and a 23-year-old who was wounded during an Israeli incursion into Beit Lahia the same day, died on Saturday morning in Gaza City, the sources said.

A controversial July 23 air raid which targeted a military leader of the militant Islamist group Hamas also claimed a 16th victim late Friday, when Khader al-Saidi, 67, died of his wounds.

The latest violence came as a Palestinian delegation was preparing for a third and final day of consultations with US officials expected to focus on reform of the Palestinian Authority's unwieldy security forces.

Top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat and interior minister Abdel Razaq al-Yahya held talks with Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs William Burns on Friday and were due to meet CIA chief George Tenet on Saturday, a senior Palestinian official said. *AFP*

Afghan blast kills 26

KABUL—A massive explosion killed at least 26 people and wounded dozens when it tore through the premises of a road building agency near the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad on Friday, the Defense Ministry said.

A ministry spokesperson said it was unclear if the blast at the compound of the Afghan Construction and Logistics Unit (Aclu) had been caused by a truck bomb or the accidental detonation of explosives used in road construction.

"The latest we have is said to be 26 dead and 80 wounded," the spokesperson said, quoting reports from officials in Jalalabad.

He said more than 40 houses near the compound had been badly damaged by the force of the blast—another unwanted shock for the fragile government of President Hamid Karzai, who came to power after the fall of the Taliban last year.

Karzai's forces and a 12,000-strong US-led coalition have been hunting Taliban remnants and allied members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, which is blamed for the September 11 attacks on the United States.

A UN security officer in Jalalabad said by telephone that the explosion happened just after noon (0730 GMT) about 10 km west of the city near the Darunta dam, which is on the road linking the city with the capital, Kabul.

"The explosion happened inside the Aclu compound, but we are not sure what caused it," the ministry spokesperson said.

"There are two speculations: first that the explosive material that went off belonged to Aclu and second that explosive devices were placed in a truck and then blown up by a remote control," he added.

Earlier, Tina Kroske, a US military spokesperson at Bagram Air Base north of Kabul quoted initial reports from US officials in Jalalabad as saying the blast had been caused by a truck bomb.

She said all the dead and wounded were Afghan nationals. *Reuters*

Indians: 2,200-yr-old math problem solved

NEW DELHI, India—Indian computer scientists said Friday they have solved a mathematical problem that has eluded researchers for 2,200 years—and could be crucial in improving computer configurations.

A three-member team of scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur say they have devised a method that will quickly and accurately determine whether a number is prime, or divisible only by itself and one. No independent verification of their claim was immediately available.

Prime numbers hold the key to solving many mathematical problems and play an important role in cryptography.

A paper detailing the formula by Manindra Agrawal, Neeraj Kayal and Nitin Saxena was posted on their department's Web site Sunday.

The scientists said copies were also distributed to leading computer scientists and mathematicians across the world and that the new algorithm—instructions for solving a mathematical problem in a limited number of steps—has so far been well-received. Scientists have long worked on ways to improve methods to identify a prime number.

Greek mathematician Eratosthenes was the first to raise this problem around 200 BC, when he offered one way of determining whether a number is divisible only by itself and one.

Computer scientists and mathematicians have since devised many faster ways to solve the problem, but all such methods carry a small risk of error. Some methods occasionally fail to detect a prime number, while others may select a non-prime number as prime. *AP*

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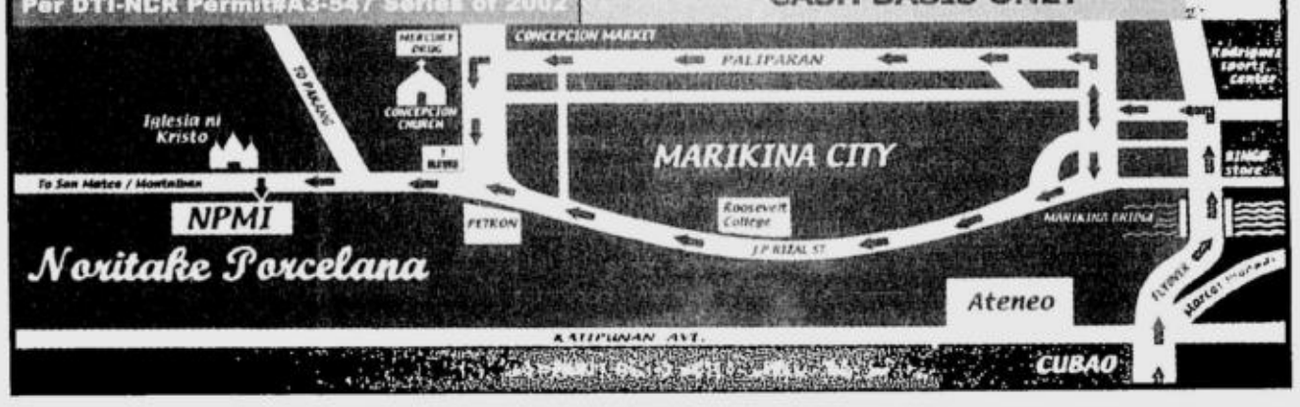

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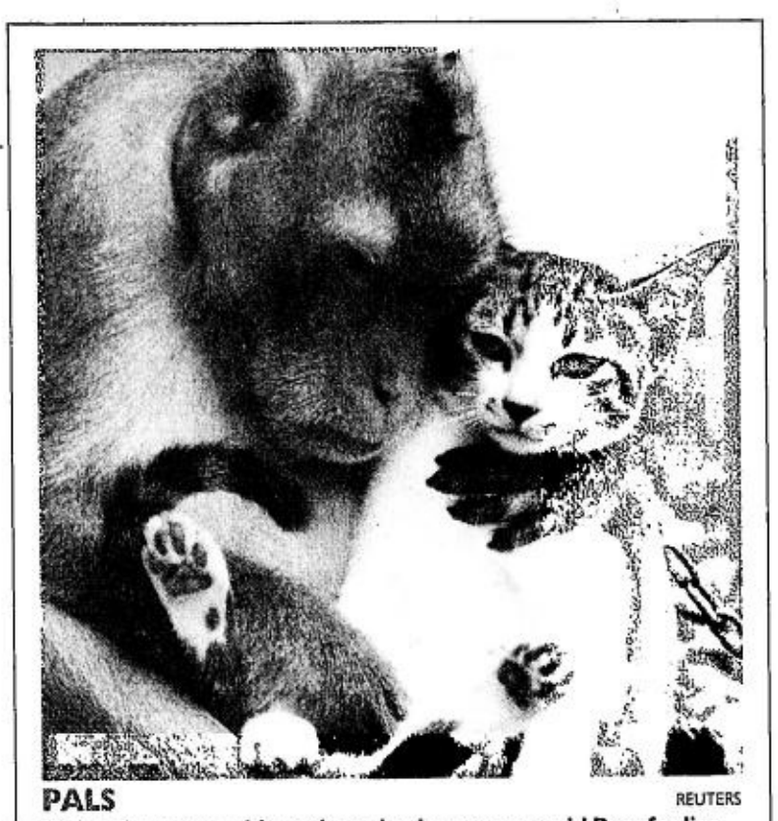


PALS REUTERS

Piek, a four-year-old monkey, checks one-year-old Pom for lice at a temple in the Thai city of Ayutthaya, 85 km north of Bangkok on August 7. Both animals, abandoned at the temple by their owners a year ago, have become playmates and have been taking care of each other.

US, Europe authorities crack int'l ring of pedophile parents

WASHINGTON—US and European law-enforcement officials have cracked a ring of pedophile parents who sexually abused their children and traded photographs over the Internet, the US Customs Service said on Friday.

The cross-border sweep resulted in 20 arrests and removed 45 children aged 2 to 14 from abusive parents, Customs officials said. More arrests were likely, they said.

A federal indictment, unsealed on Friday, described a ring of pedophiles who e-mailed each other pornographic photos of their children, traded tips in chat rooms, and sometimes met in person to swap children between 1999 and early 2002.

Members requested photos of specific sexual acts and in one case asked for an audiotape of a child crying while being spanked and abused, the indictment said.

"I've rarely seen crimes as despicable and repugnant," said Customs Commissioner Robert Bonner.

Investigators tracked down suspects through the Internet, much as the suspects themselves used the global computer network to perpetrate their alleged crimes.

Acting on a tip from the Danish chapter of the advocacy group Save the Children, police in November 2001 arrested a Danish man and his wife for posting a pornographic picture of their daughter in an online chat room.

Though the man's face was obscured in the photo, police were able to identify him by a corporate logo on his shirt.

"They're some of the worst pictures I've ever seen," said Vernon Jones, a program manager at Save the Children Denmark who described the photos as "torture." Danish police examined the couple's computer and found correspondence with suspects in the United States and Europe, a Danish police officer said.

"His home computer was a gold mine for the rest of the investigation," senior Danish detective Troels Joergensen said. "We were very lucky." Customs was able to make its first arrests by late January.

A federal court in California indicted the Danish couple and 13 others Thursday on charges of conspiracy to sexually exploit children, sexual exploitation of children, and distributing child pornography. If convicted, they face a minimum of 10 years in prison. *Reuters*

Church attackers Islamic militants, Pakistan police say

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani police said Saturday the militants who carried out a deadly attack on a Christian hospital chapel near the Pakistani capital on Friday belonged to a banned Islamic outfit.

"Police have identified the body of one of the assailants who died after the grenade attack," Marwat Shah, police chief of the nearby district of Rawalpindi said.

"His name is Kamran Mir and he is a resident of Rawalpindi," he said, adding Mir was a member of a banned "religious faction." Shah did not reveal the name of the group to which the attacker belonged saying investigations into the attack were continuing.

"We are checking and waiting for further details." Three nurses, all Pakistani women, were killed Friday when three men armed with grenades and pistols stormed the gates of the Christian missionary hospital in Taxila, an ancient Buddhist town 25 km west of Islamabad.

Some 26 others, mostly women worshippers, were injured as they emerged from a daily morning church service in the Protestant chapel in the hospital complex.

Taxila police chief Sikandar Hayat said the dead attacker appeared to have received a shrapnel wound on the right side of his back.

"It could have penetrated into some vital organ and proved fatal." The militant, who had a thin moustache but no beard, was wearing Shalwar and Kamiz, the traditional Pakistani dress of baggy trousers and long shirt.

Residents said there was neither policemen on duty nor any patrolling at the time of the attack on the chapel. Two of the attackers, brandishing pistols fled on foot, witnesses said.

Shah said the police Constable who was detailed for security duty at the hospital—and who police earlier said was late because of heavy rain—had been arrested. He is accused of "criminal negligence." Five other police officers have been suspended with immediate effect, also on charges of negligence, he said.

President Pervez Musharraf, who has joined the US-led war on global terrorism, has mounted a campaign against Islamic militancy in Pakistan and banned five radical groups involved in sectarian violence and extremism.

Government ministers, Christian leaders and hospital workers have blamed a series of recent attacks on Islamic extremists attempting to undermine Pakistan's role in worldwide anti-terror campaign.

"Ever since Pakistan decided to join international efforts against terrorism, it has been subjected to such incidents," Information Minister Nisar Memon said in a statement after the attack. *AFP*

New Yorker gets revered Maori land

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—A wind-blown corner of New Zealand's wild east coast is to the indigenous Maori people what Plymouth Rock is to Americans—revered as the place their ancestors first came ashore.

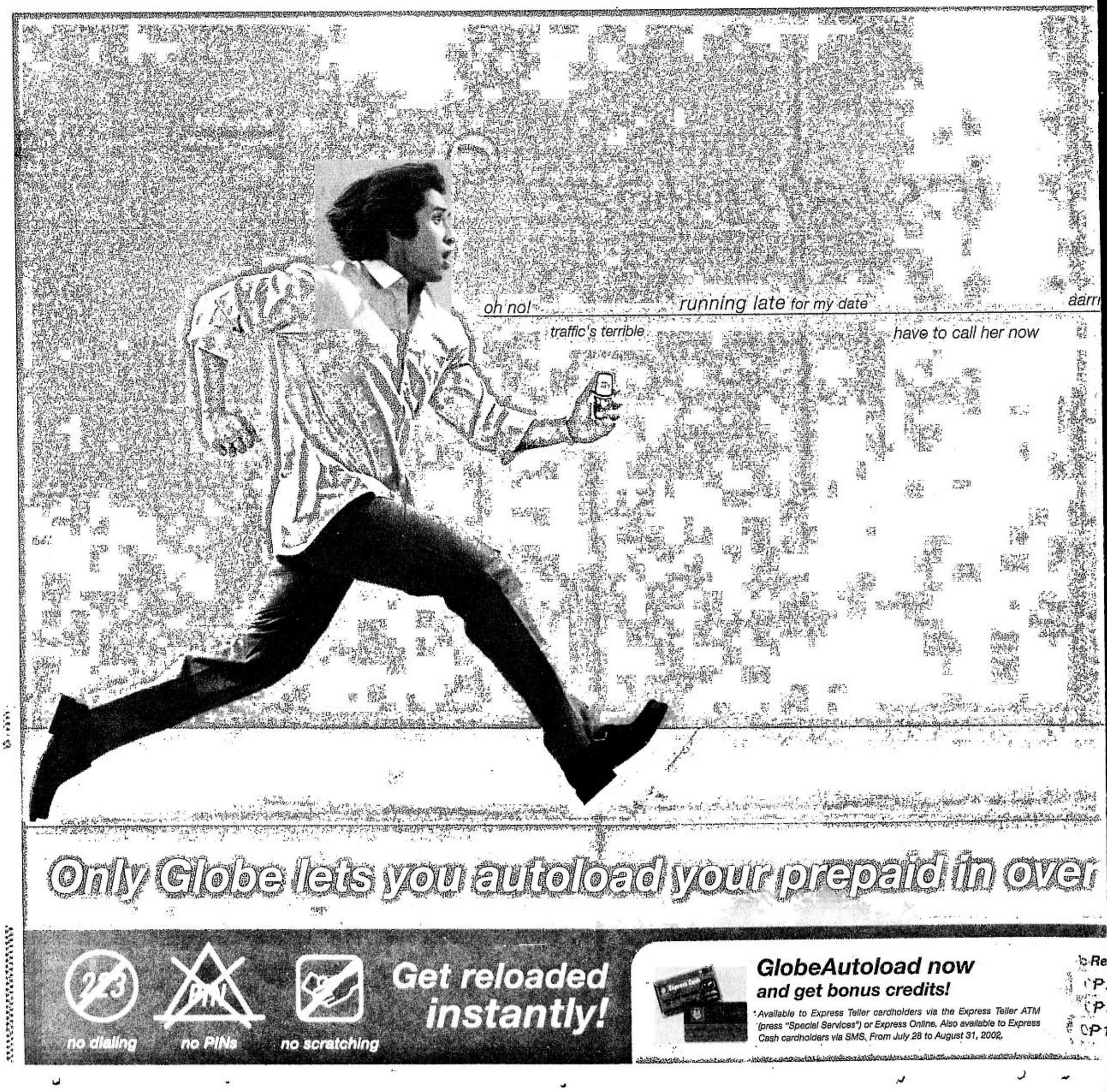
On Friday, the government ignored protests and approved its sale to a wealthy New York financier who immediately announced he would donate some sections of the grassy headland to the government in an attempt to ease tribal sensitivities

"It is a living being for us Maori people. It has a lot of soul for us as Maori. It shines like a beacon," said Tutekawa Wyllie, who led the campaign to keep the spot out of foreign hands.

Identified on most maps as Young Nick's Head, it juts into the South Pacific Ocean, 500 km north of the capital, Wellington, and is populated only by sheep and cattle. To the Maori people, it is Te Kuri a Paoa, and contains 15 sacred sites, including tribal graves and remnants of historic villages.

"It is a beautiful, beautiful place . . . a living being for us Maori, as we see it as our ancestor," Wyllie said.

New York financier John Griffin bought the headland, as part of a 600-ha farm for which he paid $1.8 million. *AP*



Malaysia courts order illegals whipped, jailed

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Malaysian courts for the first time ordered seven foreigners to be whipped and imprisoned for entering the country without valid papers under tough new laws against illegal immigrants, court officials said Saturday.

Four Indonesians were sentenced to be lashed twice with a rattan cane. Another Indonesian and two Bangladesh nationals were ordered to be whipped once.

The seven, aged between 22 to 38, who pleaded guilty to entering the country illegally, were also sentenced to jail terms between six months and two years.

The sentences were handed out by lower courts in the central state of Selangor and the northern island state of Penang on Friday, court officials in the two states said on condition of anonymity.

The seven are the first to be charged under new laws that were enforced this month which provide for fines of up to 10,000 ringgit ($2,600), mandatory prison terms of six months to five years and up to six strokes of the cane.

Previously offenders were fined and in some cases given jail sentences of less then three months before they were deported.

The new laws came into force after a four-month grace period that allowed illegal immigrants to leave the country lapsed. Government officials say about 290,000 illegal immigrants, mainly from Indonesia and Bangladesh, left the country during that time.

Officials estimated that before the crackdown up to 600,000 illegal workers formed a labor black market in Malaysia, one of Southeast Asia's wealthiest countries and a magnet for migrants fleeing poverty and violence in the region. The government says about 450,000 of them are Indonesians who mostly work in menial plantation, construction or housekeeping jobs.

The plight of thousands of illegal Indonesian workers still in Malaysia—who face caning and imprisonment if caught by authorities—topped the agenda during talks between Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohamad and Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri in Bali, Indonesia earlier this week.

Indonesia is asking Malaysia to allow the remaining illegal workers to stay while their travel documents and work visas are processed in the Malaysian cities of Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahru. The Malaysian government says it will give extra time to people who can prove they plan to leave the country.

Officials from the two countries insist ties between their governments remain strong despite the eviction of thousands of Indonesian workers from Malaysia.

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GMA fails to stop recall move vs gov

VIRAC, Catanduanes—President Macapagal-Arroyo failed to stop the brewing feud between Catanduanes Gov. Leandro Verceles Jr. and the group led by the provinces' lone district representative Joseph Santiago, which is preparing a recall move against the governor.

The President was here Friday to grace the fiesta celebration in Barras, Catanduanes.

"It is my desired wish to patch up political differences in this province," the president said in a pre-departure interview.

She parried further inquiries on her role as the go-between in the political intramural between Verceles and Santiago by directing the questions to Verceles of Lakas and Santiago of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC).

She said there is no problem with Santiago crossing the party line to Lakas because of an existing Lakas-NPC coalition.

He said the problem affecting the growth of Catanduanes is not political and would not be solved by political coalitions. He simply wants to get rid of the cycle of corruption in the province, he added.

Catanduanes Vice Gov. Cesar Sarmiento said he and his group are working on the recall of Verceles based on what he describes as highly irregular transactions that the governor had entered into.

He said they have investigated and documented the purchase of 34 Chinese-made motorcycles, which were allegedly overpriced by some P1.1 million.

Records at the provincial capitol showed that the provincial awards committee headed by the governor, whose members were Luis Ribano Jr., provincial treasurer; Felipe Almojuela, general services officer; Sonia Villalona, accountant and Ireneo del Rosario, budget officer, approved the purchase of the motorcycles worth P79,500 each, or totaling P2,703,000.

But Sarmiento said those bikes cost much less than that paid by the provincial government.

A check with the Mitsukoshi Motor Philippines showed that each motorcycle costs P47,000 at retail price while the Motortrade branch here sells the same for P45,000 each.

Sarmiento accused Verceles of supplying the 34 motorcycles to his political allies in the run-up to the July 15 synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Verceles, however, denied any anomaly.

He said the provincial government bought the items from an exclusive distributor in Manila at the agreed price. He also denied giving away the motorcycles to his political wards.

"I gave the motorcycles to those (barangay officials) who came and requested them, so that whether they were my own political allies (or not) is out of the question," he told the INQUIRER.

He accused Santiago and his group including Sarmiento and former Gov. Hector Sanchez, of obstructing the development of the province by opposing his plan to build five mini hydroelectric facilities, which will solve the power crisis besetting the province.

"This mini hydro projects would not only provide energy for household and commercial needs, (it will also provide) free electricity to the farmers for irrigation purposes," he said.

He said he was saddened that the problem of the province is 90 percent political and 10 percent technical, but vowed to fight (the opposition).

He said he is also preparing his own recall move against Sarmiento and some members of the provincial board.

Sarmiento on the other hand, said the provincial board would not authorize the governor to enter into a transaction involving P300 million for the mini hydroelectric facilities without a validated feasibility study.

With four allies in the provincial board against eight, including the vice-governor, Verceles does not have the numbers to push for the approval of his power project.

"In fact, if only to prove that we are supporting the intent of the project, we are prepared to authorize the governor to spend P5 million for a feasibility study," Sarmiento said. *Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Eastern regions. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy.SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 25°	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 25°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 23°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Catarman	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin Adina, PDI Research/08/11/02

Miners barricade bridge

DAVAO CITY—Tension gripped Tagmanok Bridge in Compostela Valley yesterday as an Army Simba rammed through the coffin of smoke fume fatality Roberto Zamora.

Zamora's coffin was placed in the middle of the bridge.

This, as hundreds of miners barricaded the Tagmanok Bridge connecting Nabunturan and Mawab towns in Compostela Valley, demanding that the government resolve the recent toxic smoke incident in Diwalwal, Monkayo.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who went to the area after receiving reports about the incident, said Zamora's cadaver was thrown to the ground as the coffin was broken into pieces.

"There was a lot of agitation when I arrived. I told the miners to lift the barricade, go home and bury the dead," said Duterte.

The mayor said he was able to convinced the miners to go home.

Duterte said Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez was expected to arrive today. The miners were demanding that the toxic smoke incident and the ambush last Wednesday be investigated, he said.

Reports from Nabunturan said vehicles from Davao City bound for Surigao and those going to Davao City have been stranded along the Davao-Agusan highway since yesterday morning.

The miners, led by the Mt. Diwata Coalition, moved to the bridge early yesterday from the provincial capitol of Compostela Valley where they held a picket to dramatize their sentiments over the victims of the toxic smoke fumes.

The incident, which killed Zamora and affected 39 other miners, was blamed on the JB Mining Corp., owned by Monkayo Mayor Joel Brillantes.

The miners were originally planning to barricade the old Gov. Miranda Bridge in Tagum City, but were reportedly forced to change their plan when police blocked the bridge.

At noon yesterday, police and Army forces arrived at the Tagmanok Bridge to dismantle the barricade and disperse the protesters. But the miners refused, prompting the Army to use a Simba and rammed through the barricaders.

Leaders of the Mt. Diwata Coalition, including Diwalwal Barangay chair Franco Tito, have threatened not to vacate the area until they obtain justice for Zamora and the other victims.

The miners also wanted Malacañang to take a firm hand on Diwalwal to end all hostilities in the area. They said they just wanted to catch the attention of the national government to help them in their plight.

"This is becoming a national problem," MDC official Rector Gardoce said. He claimed that Mayor Brillantes has been exerting efforts to force them to vacate the area so the joint-venture of the multinational Southeast Mining (SEM) and his own JB Mining and Management Corp. (JB-MMC) could monopolize the gold.

Miners have been blaming Brillantes for last week's toxic smoke incident, which reportedly started at the Victory tunnel of JB Mining Corp.

Tito said Brillantes resorted to other "devious tactics" to drive the people away in Mt. Diwata after the Court of Appeals recently issued an injunction barring the mayor from implementing his cease-and-desist order against the miners. *Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

TOURISTS will now have a chance to go to Batanes the cheaper way with the operation of the MV Ivatan Princess. NOLI GABILO

Batanes passenger ship launched

BASCO, Batanes—The northernmost province of Batanes became more accessible with the launching of operations of the passenger ship MV Ivatan Princess on Friday.

Owned and operated by the Batanes Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. (BMPCI), the 150-passenger vessel will ply the Currimao (Ilocos Norte)-Calayan (Cagayan)-Basco-Itbayat route twice a week. The route would take 18 hours.

Quirino Gabotero Jr., BMPCI chair, said the operation of the MV Ivatan Princess will help improve Batanes' economy and tourism. It will also give tourists and residents a cheaper alternative to air travel.

A one-way ticket costs P1,000, compared to a one-way airfare from Manila to Basco costing P3,900, and the Laoag City to Basco route costing P2,300.

During the ship's launch at the Basco Port on Friday, officials led by Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad and Gov. Vicente Gato welcomed the "greater accessibility" that the ship's operations would give to Batanes.

Basco Mayor Manuel Viola, however, raised the concern that the accessibility could also bring "less desirable imports," like illegal drugs and crime suspects from neighboring provinces.

Viola said this would destroy Batanes' reputation as a peaceful and crime-free province.

The MV Ivatan Princess was acquired from the Regina Shipping of Catanduanes for P4.2 million. It has a cruising speed of 10 to 14 knots.

Gabotero said the BMPCI will not tolerate any illegal activity on board any of its ships. He assured that the BMPCI's officers will report illegal cargo or activities in their ships to authorities.

Gabotero said they were instrumental in the conviction of a crewmember in one of their ships who brought some sachets of shabu and marijuana to the province.

Gato and Abad said the existing seaports in Batanes would be improved for the convenience of passengers. *Lito Conde, Contributor and Juliet Cataluña, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GMA relieves brownouts in Catanduanes island

VIRAC, Catanduanes—President Macapagal-Arroyo announced Friday the arrival today of two mobile generator to relieve Catanduanes residents of constant brownouts.

The President also ordered the immediate rehabilitation of the one-megawatt General Motors power barge of the National Power Corp.

The two mobile Caterpillar generator sets, have a combined capacity of 1.5 megawatts for a period of 90 days in time for the target restoration of the diesel power barge.

The new generator sets will be rented out to the First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative Inc. (Ficelco).

Both announcements came as a relief to the members of the consumer group People' War Against Endless Electrical Interruptions (PWEE!), who had been protesting the power outages in the island province.

Rene Abella, PWEE! chair, told the INQUIRER that they had been experiencing power outages lasting from 17 to 24 hours since 1999 because of the inability of the Napocor from supplying the power requirement of the province.

Abella said Napocor had earlier projected the energy crisis to last until December.

Because of this, the consumers have suffered enormous loses in income, breakdown of electrical appliances, absence from work because of heat-related illnesses and extra expense on acquiring and operating their own generator sets, he said.

The PWEE! also protest the purchased power adjustment (PPA) and the failure of the Ficelco to register with the Cooperatives Development Authority and its violation of the Cooperative Code.

Abella said they have sent repeated appeals for action with the provincial government and Malacañang to solve said problem.

Catanduanes Gov. Leandro Verceles Jr. said the short-term solution to the power demand of the province is the acquisition of at least four more units of 2.5-megawatt diesel generator sets, with a 10-MW aggregate capacity.

Verceles said he had requested Malacañang to fasttract the delivery of the equipment. *Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Twin to undergo knife in 8 months

BAGUIO CITY—The parents of the month-old Siamese twins from Pasil, Kalinga will have to wait for eight more months before their daughters are separated, the twins' doctor said.

Dr. Marilyn Duya, the pediatrician of Leah Grace and Rachel Sunset Lawel at the Kalinga Provincial Hospital, said this was the decision of doctors at the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) in Quezon City after they observed that the twins lost weight and may not withstand the operation.

The CT scan conducted by the PCMC doctors showed that the twins have a conjoined liver aside from their chests and abdomen.

"It's going to be a complicated operation considering that an internal organ is conjoined, but at least we could say that this is not as complicated as the cases of other Siamese twins whose vital internal organs are conjoined," Duya told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

She said the Lawel twins have a better chance of survival compared to other Siamese twins.

The twins from Barangay Bagtayan in Pasil, Kalinga were born on July 1 and were confined at the KPH in Tabuk. They were taken to the PCMC where they underwent a series of tests.

The twins were returned to Tabuk on Thursday upon the advice of their doctors. Duya said the KPH will administer the twins' regular immunization to prepare them for the operation.

She said the twins' parents, Andy Lawel and Marietta Banatao, both farmers, would need money to sustain the medical needs of their children.

The parents are hoping that their twins could survive if enough financial assistance are provided for their medical needs.

Last month, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered her aides to release funds for the medical needs of the Lawel twins.

Delivered by Caesarian section on July 1, the twins, weighing 4.52 kilograms, were born connected to the chest and abdomen.

Financial assistance for the Lawel twins may be coursed through the Land Bank of the Philippines' branch in Tabuk, Kalinga (under the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Kalinga's "Project Lawel Twins") or to the Land Bank Quezon City Circle Extension branch (under Marietta Banatao-Lawel). *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Illegal firearms

LEGAZPI CITY—Police arrested on Wednesday, Henry Mejia, 53, resident of Barangay Poblacion 2, Claveria, Masbate and a government employee, for illegal possession of firearms and live ammunitions. Mejia denied owning the firearms. Those were owned by four persons who borrowed P6,000 from him and left the firearms and ammunitions as collateral, he said. Confiscated from the suspect were two M16 rifles, a bandolier, eight long and four short magazines and 114 live ammunitions.

Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Fish-tech caravan

SORSOGON CITY—The Second Fisheries Technology Caravan, a technology transfer road show of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources was in this city last week. The techno-caravan supports the 'Ginintuang Masaganang Ani' fisheries program of the government to boost aquaculture especially in areas where resources are available. The caravan will go to areas covered by the four major fishing gulfs and bays across Bicol namely: the Ragay Gulf, San Miguel Bay, Lagonoy Gulf and the Sorsogon Bay.

Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Child crisis center opens

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Social Welfare and Development opened last week the Children and Youth Crisis Center in Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte that will serve as a transient home for sexually abused children, street and working children and persons with disability. The center will also provide a thrice-a-day feeding program for at least 10 preschool-aged children who suffer from second to third degree malnutrition, which will last for at least 6 months. Supporting the DSWD in said project are government and non-government groups.

Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Recovered from rebels

CAMP MELCHOR DELA CRUZ, Isabela—The military recovered a laptop computer, three anti-tank mines, a hand grenade and other belongings from a suspected communist rebel camp in San Mariano on Tuesday. Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, 5th Infantry Division commander, said government soldiers found several huts that can accommodate 60 people in the villages where 1Lt. Meliton Viernes of the 45th Infantry Battalion was killed last month.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Marijuana burned

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Sen. Robert Barbers and Philippine Air Force chief, Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, led the burning of P240 million worth of marijuana plants in Barangay Poro Point here on Wednesday. The marijuana were uprooted during a two-day operation by joint forces of the PAF and the National Bureau of Investigation in the tri-boundary of La Union, Ilocos Sur and Benguet. The raiders found a letter at the site addressed to government officials, and believed to have been intentionally left. The letter reads: "Kindly help our barangay and municipal officials to build a road because . . . this is (the) only solution to (poverty) and illegal plantation."

Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Gold sellers nabbed

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Police arrested five men while negotiating the sale of 75-kilogram fake gold bar for P14 million. The suspects were identified as Norberto Escobar, Rodolfo Pascua, Carlos Alipio, Buddy Palabay and Daniel Crisologo. Seized from them were a 38 cal. handgun, a fragmentation grenade, two vehicles and pieces of gold pellets.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Anti-PPA protests

BAGUIO CITY—In spite of the reduction of the Purchased Power Adjustment charges, militant groups started a new round of protests calling for the abolition of the PPA and the Electric Power Industry Reform Act. Eleonora Manbrot of the Innabuyog-Gabriela said the PPA's reduction was not enough as the unbundling of electric rates and the privatization of the National Power Corp. would still affect rates and burden consumers.

Mark Manalang, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

David, 54

PORAC, Pampanga—Former Mayor Roy David, whom Gov. Manuel Lapid credited for shaping his political career, died of pancreatitis on Thursday night. He was 54. Before he got ill, David tended to his farm and managed the Porac Rural Bank where he was president. He is survived by his wife Board Member Edna David and their six children.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

When there's oversupply of rambutan and durian

By Jeffrey Tupas
Kidapawan City

The fruit industry here is facing a major setback. Two of the major fruit crops are being offered to consumers almost like "give-aways."

These fruits, however, have not caught the consumers' attention despite the reduced prices.

The reason: they are everywhere.

Last June, rambutan prices ranged from P60 to P50 per kilo. Now, one can have a kilo for as low as P5. Durian was also priced at P60 per kilo, a far cry from the prevailing price of P20.

Flora Gabonales, consumer welfare officer of the Department of Trade and Industry, blames the law of supply and demand.

Rina Sanani, a fruit grower, said they lost Metro Manila as a market due to the recent typhoons and flooding.

Juan Dano, assistant city agriculturist, admitted there is indeed an oversupply of rambutan and durian. But this, he said, also happened last year.

Abundant

The city agriculture office recorded an estimated production of 3,460.5 metric tons of rambutan last year. This year, the estimate was the same. In 2000, rambutan production was placed at only 120.6 metric tons.

Dano said the abundant supply of rambutan and durian in the local market was also due to the climate.

Prof. Alfredo Calvo, research coordinator of the College of Agriculture at the University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan town, said the dry months early this year allowed the plants to produce its food (through the process of photosynthesis) in the form of carbohydrates. The carbohydrates, he explained, can be used for the plant's vegetative growth (or fruiting) during rainy season.

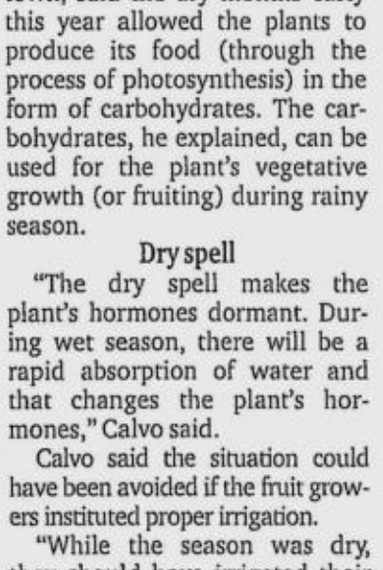
Dry spell

"The dry spell makes the plant's hormones dormant. During wet season, there will be a rapid absorption of water and that changes the plant's hormones," Calvo said.

Calvo said the situation could have been avoided if the fruit growers instituted proper irrigation.

"While the season was dry, they should have irrigated their farms to induce fruits. That could have been beneficial for them because they have their products way ahead of the others," he said.

Meanwhile, rambutan and durian here are attracting mostly the flies.



BING GONZALES

THIS child shows that durian, despite its offensive smell, is still one of the best foods that Davao City can offer to its visitors.

All-out-war

KUSOG

Fr. Eliseo R. Mercado Jr., OMI

ONCE again, we are beginning to hear the government and the National Democratic Front mouthing the slogan, "all-out war." The slogan became notorious or popular at the turn of the new millennium when President Estrada, then National Defense Secretary Orly Mercado and then Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Angie Reyes got the geographical "itch" and began evicting the Moro Islamic Liberation Front from their camps. It was a war of "flag raising cum *lechon* feasting" in about 46 God-forsaken *sitios* and barangays in Central Mindanao.

The war consumed hundred millions or billion of pesos in evicting the MILF. It displaced about 800,000 persons and wrought havoc in the economy, particularly in Mindanao. The government spent another billion of pesos for relief and rehabilitation.

Casualties from the AFP and the MILF, and innocent civilians were not factored in, because both sides did not give their own actual figures of killed and wounded.

This time around, the "all-out war" is being poised against the NDF. This war, if fought (God forbid), would cover not only Central Mindanao but also the entire Philippines. The cost of such an "all-out-war" goes beyond imagination. It is madness based on a Jurassic paradigm. The concept of an "all-out war" is premised on the paradigm of "either-or", of "us and them," of "majority and minority," that is, the victory of one side over the other. In short, it is the paradigm of exclusion.

It is very tragic that a paradigm of exclusion is again being taken hook, line and sinker as a solution to an insurgency that is spawned by poverty, exclusion and injustice. The worse happens when people begin using war language in communicating their ideas and programs.

And it really turns for the worst when people begin believing that their "all-out-war" policy is a solution to the insurgency problem or separatist sentiment. This reveals not only Jurassic thinking in this global era but also bankruptcy of ideas and paradigms.

Central Mindanao stands as a glaring example of what an "all-out-war" does to its own people. Business was paralyzed, people got killed, livelihood destroyed, people and communities got displaced and alienation and hostility turned for the worst. Yet the problem remains unsolved. People who believe that an "all-out-war" is a solution are either engaged in self-delusion or people who actually believe in their own propaganda. The former is crude blindness and the latter is insanity.

> What we need today in Mindanao and in the country is a "germination" of a new paradigm

With few exceptions, our political and moral leaders, through the years, govern through exclusion. They exclude the rebels, separatists, communists, divorcees, sinners and women. The "demonization" of the enemy often goes hand in hand with ignorance. In fact, the crusading and fanatical pursuit of the enemy is directly proportional to the ignorance of the issue and so-called enemy.

We are happy to note that the temper and the language of "all-out-war" are simmering down. However, the controversy and use of war language remain and quite a number are believers of this paradigm of exclusion. If a survey was taken, just as in 2000, war would come out as winner. Why? Well, an "all-out-war" policy offers a simplistic view of the complex problem of insurgency and separatism. It gives a promise of a quick fix or an instant solution to a problem. It seeks to destroy the enemy "once and for all" akin to another notorious slogan, "final solution," popularized by some local government officials and generals during the Erap-Mercado-Reyes War in 2000.

The truth is the policy of an "all-out-war" in Mindanao is often compared to "hitting the fan". It did not solve the problem of separatism or the issue of the MILF. It simply removes the MILF from their some 46 contained communities to several hundreds of *sitios* and barangays. In fact, the "all-out war" of the new millennium will go down in history as an exercise in ego and macho tripping that turned sour and became too costly. Erap and Orly Mercado did not survive and (in a way) became victims of their own war, yet Reyes by turning against his Commander in Chief remains not only as a survivor but has become the Secretary of National Defense.

What we need today in Mindanao and in the country is a "germination" of a new paradigm. In fact, it has already been planted in many fora like the Rio Summit, Kyoto Conference for the environment and Beijing Worldwide Conference for empowerment of women and the communities. In the political arena, particularly in Congress, this is practiced in coalition-building across party lines where cross-cutting issues are discussed and debated. New coalitions or the so-called "rainbow coalitions" have provided and been providing unprecedented avenues and opportunities to meet the needs, expectations and dreams of our people.

Another "germination" of the new paradigm is what we call the hope for peace, justice and care for the environment. The "peace process" and peace negotiations to find solutions to disputes and conflicts are examples of this germination. The new paradigm espouses a politics of inclusion by necessity and choice. It is by necessity because we have to grow thinking and believing that we are all Filipinos or citizens and all-stakeholders and interdependent. It is by choice because we hold on to the value and dignity of persons and the sacredness of our environment, instead of the Jurassic acceptance that "might makes right."

In this day and age, people are beginning to be aware that we no longer burn witches, excommunicate or exclude sinners, label people much so co-citizens as enemies, resolve conflict through violence and kill people even the so-called criminals under the guise of judicial and legal execution.

What we need today are leaders who do not use war language to earn some "*pogi* points." The new paradigm requires a leadership that is based on positive values and governance characterized by citizen-friendly bureaucracy where the citizens lie at the very heart of public and private services and institutions. It is, above all, a governance that is eager to include rather than govern through exclusion. In the final analysis, the leaders' greatness is the consequence of the positive values that he or she offers.

Army's newest brawl: Battle of the bowls

REBEL returnee Loreto Palma helps a soldier mold one of the toilet bowls for distribution to tribal people under a military program. BING GONZALES

By Anthony S. Allada
Davao City

Soldiers in the region have proven that they are not only good in combat and tactical operations against underground rebels or separatist guerrillas. They are also excellent in making fortified and reliable toilet bowls molded from cement.

Elements of the Army's 73rd Infantry Battalion have already produced 100 well-made, water-sealed toilet bowls intended for their partners in the fight against communist insurgency—the *lumad*.

Col. Eduardo del Rosario, chief of the 73rd IB, said they have pushed for such projects as they believe that health and sanitation are essential part of community development.

Del Rosario said his battalion has deemed it necessary to launch the project to improve the health and sanitation of the *lumad* communities in the hinterlands.

The project aims to provide at least two to three toilet bowls per sitio in Davao City's three remote districts— Marilog, Baguio, and Paquibato.

The construction of the toilets will be spearheaded by the soldiers themselves and members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit with the help of *lumad* residents.

Datu Joel Unad; chair for Supreme Tribal Council for Peace and Development, who received the toilet bowls in behalf of the *lumad*, said his constituents were very happy on the latest sanitation project.

A paragon for the bureaucracy

DUGONG MINDANAW

Romel M. Oribe

We want to know what the Mindanaoan youngblood, middle-aged blood or high blood are thinking about what's happening in Mindanao and the rest of the country.--Ed.

THIS text message hit me in the solar plexus: A man was told by God in his dream to build a better government. "But how?" he asked, "the bureaucracy is so messed up there's nothing I can do." God smiled and said: "Just build a better you!"

I teach public administration at the graduate school of a state college and each time I do this pitch to my students, I get a consistent reaction. And that is—the bureaucracy has become irremediable in its inadequacy that nobody can make a difference!

Maybe. Maybe not! But it is this gnawing sense of helpless surrender that makes the bureaucracy worse than it really is.

To be part of a bureaucracy that is generally perceived to be corrupt, inefficient and incompetent can be bruising to my self-esteem. But that does not necessarily stop me. You see, I have the freedom of choice and the pragmatic power to reinvent myself and become a paragon for the bureaucracy.

In this new millennium, we as public servants must create a special kind of vision, one that reorients our commitment to public service with greater creativity, discipline and excellence. We must imbue ourselves with a sense of responsibility that is matched only by our sense of self-restraint.

Admittedly, we cannot do this alone. That's why for its part, the government must also create its own kind of special vision, one that inspires civil servants to keep evolving for the better and to always give their best. Specifically, it must lay out a clearer framework that systematically carries out needed bureaucratic reforms. It must continue to craft and implement policies that are fine-tuned to the demands of an ever-changing world. It must rethink its entire bureaucratic approach from patronage system to one that attracts only the fittest, the brightest and the best. And most importantly, it must incessantly retool and sharpen the saw of its human resources for them to become truly world class.

We can make a difference, believe you me. But first, let us make it our mantra to unleash all our creative energies for the country from here on. And let us rise above the vortex of seeming mediocrity and ineptness and become fresh refrains of the present rather than just being tired replays of the past.

This enchanced piece won first prize in the Regional Essay Writing Contest sponsored by the Civil Service Commission on the occasion of its Centennial Celebration. E-mail the author at romeloribe@yahoo.com

Tatag ng Samahan Sagisag ng Kaunlaran

GAWAD PITAK
GAWAD SA PINAKATANGING KOOPERATIBA

Ang mga Nagwagi sa GAWAD PITAK 2002

KATEGORYANG AGRI-BASED

Unang Gantimpala — **Tayabas Community Multi-Purpose Cooperative**, Tayabas, Quezon
Pangalawang Gantimpala — **Diffun Credit & Development Cooperative**, Diffun, Quirino
Pangatlong Gantimpala — **Lagawe Multi-Purpose Cooperative**, Lagawe, Ifugao
Pang-apat na Gantimpala — **Sts. Peter & Paul Multi-Purpose Cooperative**, Hinunangan, Southern Leyte
Panglimang Gantimpala — **Landan's People Cooperative**, Polomolok, South Cotabato

KATEGORYANG NON-AGRI-BASED

Unang Gantimpala — **Barangka Credit Cooperative**, Barangka, Marikina City
Pangalawang Gantimpala — **Nueva Vizcaya Alay Kapwa Multi-Purpose Cooperative**, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
Pangatlong Gantimpala — **Phil. Army Financial Center Producers Integrated Co-op**, Taguig, Metro Manila
Pang-apat na Gantimpala — **Five Star Savings & Credit Development Cooperative**, Gamu, Isabela
Panglimang Gantimpala — **Gubat St. Anthony Credit Cooperative**, Gubat, Sorsogon

KATEGORYANG KO-OP RURAL BANK

Unang Gantimpala — **Cooperative Bank of Bohol**, Tagbilaran, Bohol
Pangalawang Gantimpala — **First Isabela Cooperative Bank**, Cauayan, Isabela

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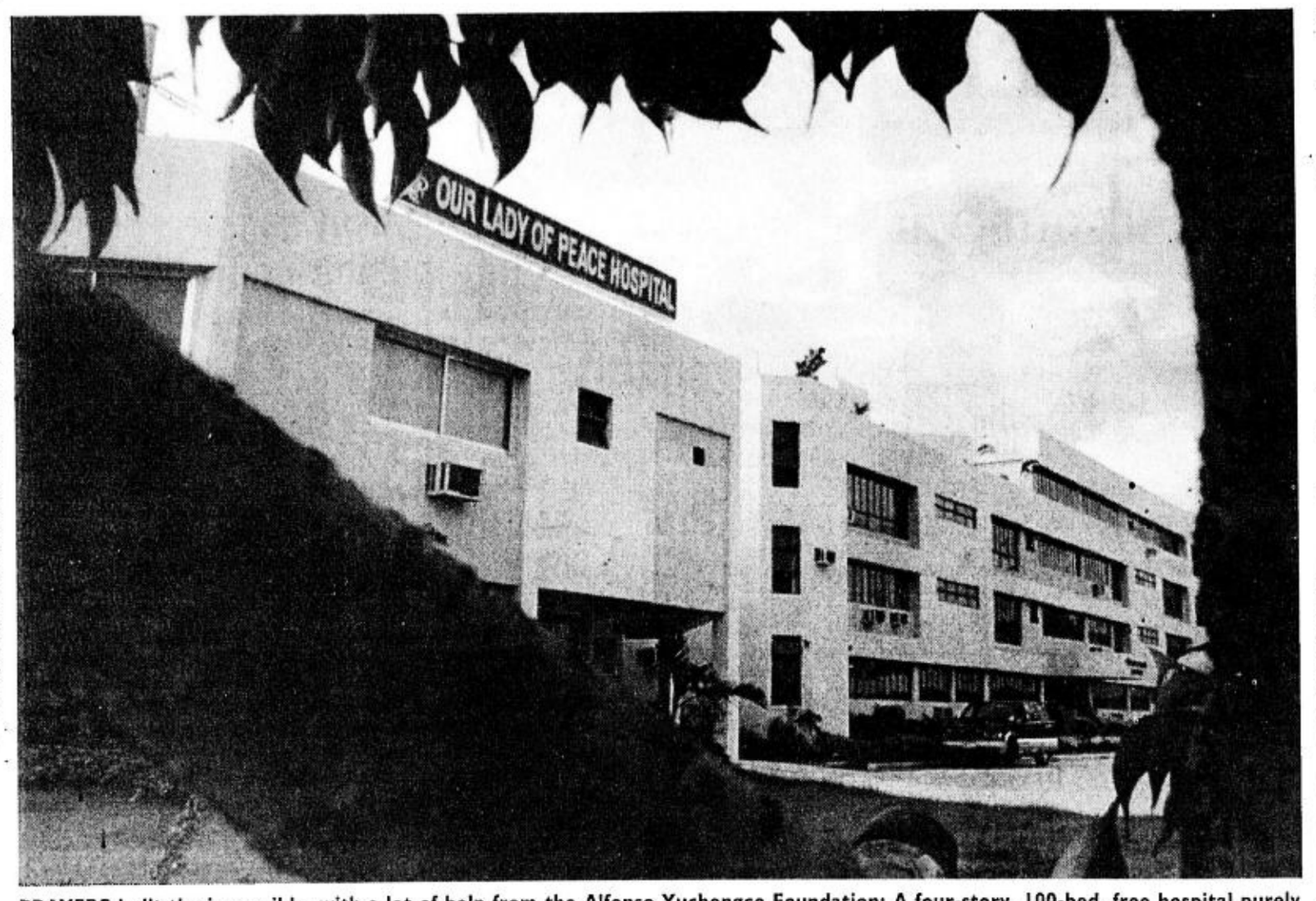

PRAYERS built the impossible, with a lot of help from the Alfonso Yuchengco Foundation: A four-story, 100-bed, free hospital purely for the poor located along the Coastal Road in Barangay San Dionisio. VAL HANDUMON

Top-rate hospital for poor . . .

From page A1

"I've realized how powerful her prayers were for this project. She made me see that everything is possible.

"Up to now we can't believe we've done it. The hospital is a miracle in itself."

Maamo traced the development of the hospital by the presidents that came and went.

"It was during the Aquino administration that it was conceptualized," she said. "The groundbreaking was during the Ramos years, and the first cornerstone was laid during the Estrada administration. Now we're having our opening under President Macapagal-Arroyo. That's how long it has taken."

In between those years, Maamo led the foundation's tireless search for donors.

The pitch included sending out a 30-minute video documentary of the foundation's medical missions, poignantly narrated by its chair, Fr. James Reuter, who described Sister Eva as "the Mother Teresa of the Philippines."

Maamo said what she considered a feat for the foundation was the fact that "we were able to build the hospital without having to incur loans."

She conceded that her winning the 1997 Ramon Magsaysay Award provided a major boost to the foundation's solicitation efforts.

"We simply said, 'This is for the poor.' And it really helped that people saw our sincerity and track record," she said.

This also made her realize the significance of what Reuter had told her: "You accept the award not for yourself, but for the poor."

Dignity

Sister Elvira Ibardolaza, administrator of the hospital, said its philosophy was not only about physically healing patients but also restoring their "dignity."

Its first-rate facilities and dedicated staff will help erase the notion that mediocre service "will do" for poor people who cannot afford the best that money can buy, she said.

A blessing ceremony and "soft launch" of the hospital was held last March 25.

Once it is fully operational, its medical staff will include up to 60 volunteer doctors who regularly make up the foundation's outreach medical missions. As consultants, they will not receive wages.

Only six young resident doctors, nurses and other support staff members will be on the hospital's payroll.

Patients will be entitled to free services and accommodations, and will only pay for the medicines and supplies used, albeit at discounted rates depending on their income levels. A social worker will screen the patients according to this discount scheme.

The hospital building, including the foundation's office and the nuns' quarters, sits on a 1.2-hectare reclaimed land leased to the foundation by the Public Estates Authority for 25 years at P1 a year.

Maamo made special mention of the Alfonso Yuchengco Foundation as the hospital's major benefactor, donating the first P50 million.

Other sponsors include the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Presidential Management Staff, and several US-based religious and civic groups.

Veteran

A respected figure in both the medical and religious communities, Maamo is a veteran of some 50 medical missions that have taken her group of volunteers from the slums of Manila to remote tribal communities.

She could have led a more comfortable secular life, her father being a former town mayor and her mother, a public school teacher.

But the fifth child in a brood of 11 joined the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres when she was already a practicing physician. After charging a professional fee for the last time in 1969, it's been all "God's work" for her since.

The realization of her dream is a testament to her firm belief that "you can't go wrong once you serve the poor."

(Interested parties may e-mail the foundation at siseva2000@yahoo.com.)

Jackpot contract: Anatomy of dubious deal

From page A1

"On the other hand, Pagcor's receipts would be much less in an income-sharing arrangement," he said in his Nov. 8, 2001 memo. Only ACES proposed a rental arrangement, while MIO and GoldCor offered income-sharing schemes.

New departments

But four days later, Rafael "Butch" Francisco, Pagcor chief of staff, issued a memorandum informing Genuino and the board of directors that a Research and Development Department had been created, with deputy chief of staff Rene Figueroa as senior managing head. Among its functions, the new department would "search, test, evaluate and validate new games (Keno, etc), new slot machines, new technology (player tracking, progressive metering and other software packages, etc)."

Hence, "new business proposals pending with the Gaming Department and another unit would be transferred to R&D, Francisco wrote. The other unit was Market Research, itself newly created.

"For the past decade or more, we have lagged behind in research and development. This is primarily the reason why Pagcor today is not taken seriously by (sic) the international front and not feared as an active competitor in the global gaming area," Francisco wrote.

A month later, on Dec.11, in an apparent bid to be taken seriously on the so-called international front, Figueroa issued a memorandum recommending the approval of the income-sharing scheme offered by MIO and GoldCor.

The Inquirer's copy of Figueroa's memo bore a stamp of approval by the board of directors, chaired by Genuino. "This matter was approved by the board of directors in its meeting on 11 December 2001," it read. Aside from Genuino, board members include Danilo Gozo, Luis Carlos, Domingo Calajate and Manuel Roxas.

Figueroa granted GoldCor the authority to install its jackpot system on Dec. 14. MIO's turn came seven days later. The approvals came several years after GoldCor had first proposed a progressive jackpot system to Pagcor, then under chair Alice Reyes. At that time, the gaming firm had rejected it, for fear that it would dilute the income of the agency.

60-40 income sharing

The terms of last December's income-sharing contracts are simple: MIO and GoldCor will install the system (composed of meter and sensor) and each would be entitled to 40 percent of net proceeds. Pagcor gets 60 percent.

But pressed for comment, Vivo admitted to the Inquirer that the deals were approved even though they were disadvantageous to the government, noting that the ACES proposal was the most cost-effective. (Vivo was eased out of Pagcor last Feb.20, because he had allegedly lost the trust and confidence of Pagcor management.)

ACES had proposed to rent out its jackpot system to Pagcor for only $800 (or P40,000 at an exchange rate of P50 per dollar) per gaming table each month. The proposal included an option to eventually sell the system to the agency.

In contrast, consider the following: Last March, the new system's first month of operations, GoldCor earned around P400,000 from two gaming tables at the Casino Filipino branch in Parañaque. If the ACES system had been in place, the fixed rental fee for two tables would have been merely $1,600 (P80,000). The difference is more than P300,000. (MIO's operations in the Casino Filipino branch in the Pavilion in Manila could be more profitable than GoldCor's, Pagcor insiders said, because more customers go there.) A Pagcor official who spoke on condition of anonymity said: "That translates to Pagcor or government losses. If you multiply that by 12, that would amount to P3,600,000 a year. How much more (would the losses be) if Pagcor's 400-plus gaming tables were fitted with the jackpot systems of GoldCor and MIO?" A ballpark estimate: more than P1.4 billion.

Vivo was not the only one to express reservations about the contracts with GoldCor. Dario Cordero, then senior branch manager of the Casino Filipino branch in Parañaque, noted some defects in GoldCor's progressive wagering system even before its trial period could start in August last year.

In an Aug.27 memorandum, he wrote that the system's keyboard and software were not capable of correcting an error by a table supervisor, and that the system was not secure. According to insiders, it took a month before GoldCor's system could be installed because of the defects.

Ties with chairman

Initially, both GoldCor and MIO were granted similar licenses to set up the jackpot system in different Casino Filipino branches in Metro Manila.

Under the jackpot system, a card player has an option to place a P50 side bet in addition to his "ante" bet. Once it's placed, the side bet is automatically detected by a sensor and is logged into the system. This gives the bettor a chance to win the jackpot prize if his cards turn out to be royal flush. Lower winning cards win lesser prizes. After the initial phase, GoldCor is under obligation to install 264 more units of the jackpot system. MIO has a contract for 148 more. The licenses are for five years, unless earlier revoked by Pagcor.

The official who requested anonymity said he believed that GoldCor and MIO were awarded the contracts because of their owners' closeness to Genuino, who was appointed chair and president of Pagcor in January 2001, the same month President Macapagal-Arroyo was swept to power on a tide of public outrage over excesses in gambling, both legalized and illegal.

GoldCor is majority-owned by Sun Pao Lo (also known as Paul Sun), whom the official said is a close friend of Genuino's brother, Councilor Romy Genuino of Navotas.

MIO's chairman Harutaka Ogiwara is no stranger to Genuino, having been awarded a contract to operate the "pachinko" and "pachisuro" arcade at the Casino Filipino branch in Parañaque in September last year. The December "grants of authority" to MIO and GoldCor allowed each firm to introduce the progressive jackpot system in six gaming tables: two tables each for stud poker, pai-gow and mini-baccarat.

In a memo dated Nov.6, however, Vivo had recommended (apparently not for the first time) that "management rule out such a proposal (to extend the jackpot system to games other than stud poker) at this time." He wrote that "progressive jackpot systems for table games other than Stud Poker are largely untested at present ... In fact, we are unaware of any casino property in the world today that can claim significant revenue achievements from non-Stud Poker progressive jackpot systems."

He pointed out that while "the meter and progressive jackpot system are inherent in the design of the game of Stud Poker ... the same cannot be said for a meter-equipped pai-gow, mini-baccarat or blackjack table." Vivo stressed that "integrating such enhancement will require an overhaul of their respective game rules, payout odds and dealing procedures."

He suggested that it was "necessary to thoroughly validate these parameters." His suggestion was not carried.

Palace: Pagcor expansion authorized by its franchise

From page A1

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye tried to explain the increasing number of state-sponsored gambling operations. He pointed out that Pagcor's operations are covered by the franchise issued by Congress to the gaming firm, which is directly under the Office of the President.

Bunye said that Malacañang's sole concern is that Pagcor will implement existing restrictions on who are allowed under the law to bet on any of the games being run by Pagcor.

"I think for as long as they follow the guidelines excluding minors, government officials, and others who are ineligible to play in these casinos, I guess it's all right," Bunye said.

"Because in the first place, they have the franchise already from Congress to engage in this operation," he added.

Surprise in Cebu City

Two slot machine arcades planned for Cebu City caught local government officials and Church leaders by surprise. Msgr. Achiles Dakay, spokesperson for the Archdiocese, said the Church would "definitely protest" the entry of this gambling scheme in the city. Mayor Tomas Osmeña, Vice Mayor Michael Rama and City Administrator Paul Villarete said they were unaware of the plan until it was reported in the Inquirer on Saturday.

The Inquirer reported that Pagcor have contracts for the operation of 20 slot machine arcades in Metro Manila, Cebu City and Davao City.

The Cebu City arcades will be operated along Osmeña Boulevard corner Llorente Street by Platinum Gaming and Entertainment Corp., and at Colon corner Legaspi Streets by the Makati-based Waz Lian Management Philippines Inc.

Platinum Gaming, said to hold offices at Plaridel Street in Mandaue City, is not listed in the local phone directory.

Rama said he would find out if the slot machine arcades, like the online lottery (lotto) outlets, can operate without approval from the local government unit.

Villarete said he would arrange for a meeting with Pagcor officials in Cebu to find out about the slot machine arcade operation in the city. He added he has not come across any application for a permit to operate slot machine arcades in any part of the city.

Fr. Max Abalos, Sanlakas national chair, yesterday said he was saddened that the government would want to improve its revenue at the expense of the people.

Paul Rodriguez, the head of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan)-Cebu, said Ms Macapagal is no different from ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"President Arroyo is very inconsistent in her policies. She has made appear that she is anti-gambling but as it turned out, she is encouraging gambling," Rodriguez said.

The Macapagal administration and Pagcor should expect massive protests from militant groups against the presence of these gambling arcades in the city, Rodriquez said.

Shattered in Lucena City

The spokesperson of Gomburza, a militant group of priests nationwide, has denounced the government plan to allow the operation of slot machines or "one-armed bandits" outside the confines of government-run casinos.

"This is too much. We kicked out Erap (ousted President Estrada) because he loved gambling money too much and now the present Malacañang tenant is not only imitating the deposed President but even surpassing him in terms of promoting wicked means just to earn money," Fr.Raul Enriquez, Gomburza spokesperson, yesterday said in a phone interview.

Enriquez stressed any form of money derived from gambling, illegal or legal, "is immoral."

"That's the basic Church teaching on gambling money," he said.

There are members of the Catholic Church hierarchy who accept donations from Pagcor to fund their charity projects, the activist priest admitted.

"But still, that does not erase the fact that the money is tainted with wickedness and immorality," Enriquez stressed.

Enriquez dared the Church officials concerned to stop the practice. "Now is the time to end all the hypocrisy and start living according to the teaching of the Catholic Church," he said.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo should now start practicing what she has pledged in Edsa II, that she will be the opposite of Mr. Estrada," he said.

He said all the promises of Edsa II have all been shattered and dumped into oblivion.

"What would be next? High game poker in every street corner, roulette in every restaurant and clubs, and what's next? We could even edge out Macau and other international gambling havens with Tourism Secretary Gordon calling all inveterate gamblers of the world to come here and play with their money and slowly destroy whatever remaining integrity that he have as Filipinos," the priest from Sariaya said.

He called on all members of the religious to combat the evil threat of gambling. "This is much worse than the violence of Abu Sayaff and criminal gangs prowling in our midst," he said.

Juan Tamad in Davao City

In Davao City, Fr. Pete Lamata, pastoral director of the Archdiocese of Davao, said Malacañang is teaching the Filipino people to be like Juan Tamad.

"This is not a good sign. We are going back to the Estrada administration when there was proliferation of gambling activities in our country," Lamata said in a telephone interview.

"This will lead people to be idle. They will not be working hard anymore for their daily bread but would now depend on gambling," Lamata said.

Lamata said Malacañang should review the project. "I know the governemnt is thinking of economic development out of this project. But the Pesident should go soul searching . . . review the project," he added.

While the project benefits the poor in terms of a get-rich-quick scheme, Lamata said it is not a positive action from a morally upright presidency.

Authorized by law

But Bunye invoked the law to validate Pagcor's joint venture with private slot machine contractors. It is "covered by the mandate of Pagcor because they have been authorized by law to engage in these types of operations," Bunye said.

He admitted that the Palace is aware of the staunch anti-gambling position of the Church but it is prepared to roll with criticisms expected from the religious sector.

"The stand of the Church has been known," he said. "They have been against gambling but the government has taken its own stand that for as long as it is authorized by law, certain operations can be allowed."

Bunye also said that Pagcor's slot machine project does not go against the grain of Ms Macapagal's personal stand against gambling.

"For example, the President is against the death penalty but as Chief Executive, she has to execute the laws," Bunye said, referring to Ms Macapagal's decision to allow executions of death convicts.

"In this particular case, we have laws allowing this type of operations," he added. ***With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan, Delfin T.Mallari and Ayan Nellejor***

Guingona: I'm no communist lover

From page A1

nationalist" but a "left-leaning sympathizer whose constituencies are the communists."

The First Gentleman had spiritedly defended his wife, President Macapagal-Arroyo, whose security and foreign policies Guingona had taken a swipe at in a speech last Thursday before the Foreign Correspondents of the Philippines.

Without mentioning Mr. Arroyo by name, Guingona said he had cast a slur on his integrity.

He invoked the example of the great US President Abraham Lincoln who fought to preserve the United States union during the US civil war and was assailed as a "Negro lover."

"He (Lincoln) said, 'I am not a Negro lover but I look upon him as a human being. I am fighting to preserve the union for all Americans which include the whites of New York and the Negros of Alabama,'" Guingona said.

In his Focap speech, Guingona criticized the President's declaration of war against the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

Guingona said it would be wiser for the government to try to win the rebels over through the peace process, rather than by force.

He also expressed some apprehension that Ms Macapagal's all-out support for Washington could drag the country into the impending US war against Iraq.

Though Malacañang reacted coolly to the vice presidential tirade, the President's husband fumed as he was interviewed on television.

Taking up the cudgels for his wife's policies, he described Guingona as a communist sympathizer as if that would explain his Focap statements.

Guingona had made the criticisms on the same day that US Secretary of State Colin Powell called on all governments to "isolate, choke the sources of financial sources and prevent the (CPP-NPA's) movement across international borders."

Powell also warned CPP sympathizers that it was "illegal" for them to support this group after the United States had designated it a "foreign terrorist organization" because of its "violent activities."

In a statement in reaction to Mr. Arroyo's remarks, Guingona said: "When I speak out for the protection of the nation, that includes Filipinos of whatever creed or conviction. When I fought for human rights during martial law, I stood for all Filipinos, regardless of ideology.

"And when I humbly propose certain measures today which I believe will be good for the economy, I do not do so for vested interests or communists but for the people in general, especially the poor and downtrodden who need help."

MOZART PASTRANO

AMORSOLO-LIKE setting for Clave with wife and kids, a family that farms together.

Tribal water watchers keep Bukidnon rivers alive

From page A1

"What makes the Tigbantay Wahig experience unique is that these are people in the community who conduct a serious, long-term scientific study using practical, inexpensive and locally available materials and methodologies. And the data collected through this low-tech process are not only valid but are also relevant to the community," noted Janeth P. Bago-Labis, Mindanao coordinator of Heifer International-Philippines (HPI), the international organization which has been Tigbantay Wahig's major partner in this endeavor.

Passing on the gift

For Tigbantay Wahig members, HPI has several projects: a goat dispersal program (50 does and 11 bucks), a fruit tree project (3,436 seedlings to 135 recipients in 13 barangays), a reforestation project (1,200 seedlings of Mosisi timber tree) and a fish culture project (1,200 tilapia fingerlings).

But these are not mere dole-outs.

"Under the principle of 'passing on the gift,' Tigbantay Wahig members share with the rest of the community one or more offspring of the farm animals they receive. This enhances their dignity because they are not just recipients but are also donors," Labis said.

One recipient-donor is George Clave Sr., a 40-year-old farmer whose infectious sense of humor belies the hardship he faces as a marginal farmer. He received four does and a goat after attending a goat-raising seminar more than a year ago.

In his small lot in Purok 5 at Barangay Insibay, Clave raises 13 egg-laying hens, someone else's four cows, and a pig. He also has a horse, which is his main mode of transportation.

"I also have centipedes and rats scurrying on the roof," he chuckled.

Clave said he has to worry about buying commercial feed for the chickens, finding grazing grounds for the cows and cooking bananas for the pig, but goats are a different thing altogether.

"You just feed them grass like setaria, rinzone and flamengia, and sometimes banana leaves, and they won't bother you," he said.

Clave puts the goats in pens raised a few feet off the ground. Every 10 days he gathers goat droppings.

"I have two sacks of organic fertilizer," he quipped.

He considers his goats as a "savings bank" that he can sell in times of emergency. A goat sells for P5,000 to P6,000 in the market.

He has, in fact, sold one goat and passed on another to someone else in the community under HPI's "passing on the gift" practice.

"Before, my only means of income was to be a hired hand in other farms or plantations," Clave confided. "The year before last, I earned P5,000 during the milling season. Last year, I earned just P4,000 and I had to ask my wife, Teresita, and my 16-year-old son to help me clear the 10 hectares assigned to me."

Now, with his goats and his share in Tigbantay Wahig's fish pond, fruit farm, poultry and other ventures, Clave can afford to make wisecracks about the hard life of mountain farmers.

Through good times and through bad, Clave drops his chores at the 11th of each month to join his fellow Tigbantay Wahig members, trooping to the rivers passing through their mountain town and praying that the elemental spirits will guide them to a better future.

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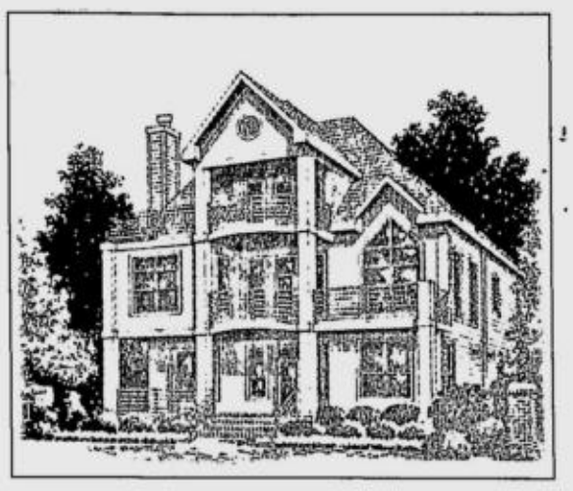

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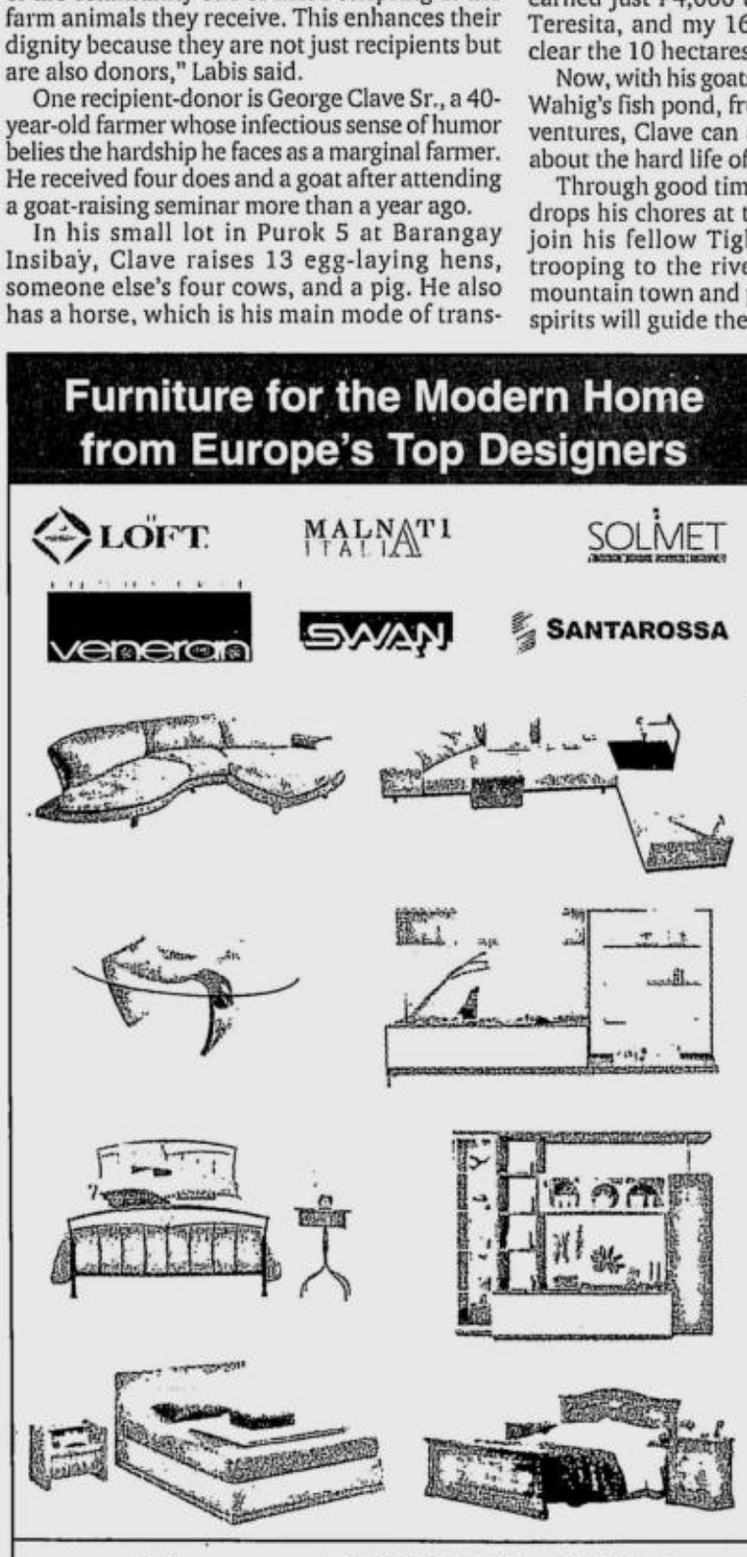

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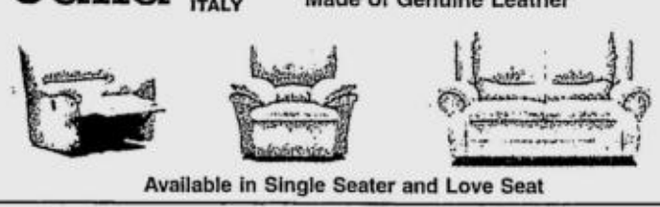

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7-0 RECORD

Archers whip Eagles, post sweep

'Ateneo isn't the UAAP, La Salle isn't the UAAP. There are seven competing teams. Things can change in the next four or five games' —Pumaren

'We were out of control from start. I have to give credit to La Salle's defense. They disrupted us. They didn't allow us to set up and we succumbed to their ploy' — Banal

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	7	0
UE	5	2
Ateneo	4	3
UST	4	3
UP	3	3
Adamson	2	4
FEU	1	4
NU	0	5

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs. UP
4 p.m.—FEU vs. NU

By Dennis U. Eroa

UNFORGIVING La Salle dealt arch-rival Ateneo a clinical 70-60 beating, in the process sweeping the first round of the UAAP basketball tournament eliminations last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Playing like men on a do-or-die mission, the Green Archers pounded the middle relentlessly and converted crucial perimeter shots to score their seventh straight victory.

The Blue Eagles groped for shots in the face of a sticky defense thrown at them by the Archers.

An overflow crowd exchanged cheers and jeers, but in the end, the bemedalled Green Archers stood tallest, knowing they just dished out one of their fiercest games ever against a team it had been punishing the last four years or so.

Mike Cortez, Adonis Sta. Maria, BJ Manalo, Mark Cardona, Joseph Yeo, and Manny Ramos reduced Ateneo's zone into ruins with their sterling plays.

La Salle's deep bench also came to shore, with rookie playmaker Tyrone Tang, Mika Vainio and Junjun Cabatu contributing quality minutes.

Without two-time MVP Rich Alvarez, Ateneo simply failed to keep pace with La Salle's tested and game-long poise and energy. The middle, where Alvarez is a big Ateneo factor, became La Salle's virtual playground yesterday.

The Blue Eagles' most shining moment came at the start of fourth period when they greeted the archers with a 9-0 run, reducing a 17-point 58-41 bubble to eight, 58-50, 6:36 left.

But La Salle was quick to address the problem.

With Lewis Tenorio struggling in the face of Cardona's pesky guarding, the Green Archers responded in their usual explosive finishing kick.

Cardona, last year's rookie of the year, had seven points in a La Salle counter 10-3 blast as the Archers zoomed to a safe 68-53 lead, barely three minutes remaining.

Enrico Villanueva almost singlehandedly battled La Salle slotmen, firing 23 points and grabbing 14 rebounds. But he was slowed down by foul trouble early in the fourth period.

Wesley Gonzales was the second Blue Eagle to finish in double figures with 15. But he, too, looked frustrated whenever the Archers stepped on the gas.

Beating Ateneo always made La Salle coach Franz Pumaren happy. But after yesterday's victory, Pumaren said it wasn't time to celebrate. N'yet.

Pumaren said the Archers are just halfway through of their bid for a five-peat. "Ateneo isn't the UAAP, La Salle isn't the UAAP. There are seven competing teams. Things can change in the next four or five games."

Pumaren credited the Archers' solid defense for the runaway victory. This is the first time in seven games that we played solid defense. Playing Ateneo is really special. There's a lot of emotions involved and it's quite different when you play before an overflowing crowd."

The absence of suspended power forward Rich Alverez also affected Ateneo, according to Pumaren. "Things could have been different if Rich is around. But we have different approaches to different situations. If Alvarez's around, the team going to have a new game plan, we were able to scout Ateneo very well."

Earlier, University of the East continued its amazing climb by tripping University of Santo Tomas, 90-87, for its fifth straight win after losing its first two games.

James Yap scattered 36 points, including six triples, and Paul Artadi handed 10 assists as the Red Warriors caught the Tigers flat-footed. UST dropped to 4-3.

Saved from momentary lapse of concentration in the final minutes, UE was in total control of the match. It was ahead 88-77, 1:44 remaining before Cyrus Baguio instigated UST's late finish.

Baguio exploded with 24 points but failed to get enough support from his teammates.

In junior action, the Ateneo Eagles outgunned the La Salle-Zobel Bengals, 82-54, for its fourtn win in six games, while the UE Pages edged the UST Tiger Cubs, 80-79, for a 3-2 card.

Scores:

LA SALLE 70—Cortez 16, Cardona 14, Wilson 12, Sta. Maria 9, Manalo 7, Ramos 5, Yeo 5, Sharma 2, Cabatu 0, Tang 0, Vainio 0.

ATENEO 60—Villanueva 23, Gonzales 15, Chia 9, Tenorio 6, Fonacier 4, Tadeo 3, Intal 0, Elmido 0, Cruz 0.

Quarters: 20-17, 38-31, 58-41, 70-60.

BJ Manalo (with the ball), the former Ateneo star now playing for La Salle, driving against Ateneo's Wesley Gonzales. La Salle won, 70-60. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Ateneo started on the wrong foot, says Banal

ATENEO head coach Noel Banal admitted that the Blue Eagles started on the wrong foot in their 60-70 loss to arch rival Dela Salle University yesterday in the UAAP basketball tournament.

"We were out of control from the start. I have to give credit to La Salle's defense. They disrupted us. They didn't allow us to set up and we succumbed to their ploy," Banal said.

"They wanted us to run. We were running but we were running out of ocntrol," he added.

Lorenzo Manguiat

RP cagers pocket 2nd win

HONG KONG—RP-Burlington drew another inspired game from cage superstar Romel Adducul to rout defending champion Hong Kong, 62-53, and barge into the finals of the Super League Invitational Basketball Championships.

Team captain Adducul again played the stellar role with 13 points, nine rebounds and six assists as the Philippines was assured of its best finish of second.

Prior to this, the best performance ever by a Philippine team was in 1990 when Philips Sardines, under coach Joe Lipa, placed third.

Erwin Sotto and Ranidel De Ocampo ably backed up Adducul with 13 and 12 points, respectively.

This same spunk in offense is what they will be needing when the Filipinos battle Shan Dong of China in the championship game set at 2:30 p.m. today.

China, which boasts of the tallest line-up in this tourney, defeated Thailand in the other game, 86-70.

The Philippines, which is being coached by Johnny Tam, is coming off a 66-61 win over Malaysia.

"This is a big win for us. We knew we had to play hard against Hong Kong, *kasi sila yung* defending champion. *Alam naming malakas din sila*," said Adducul.

The story waiting to be told

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BACK in the old days when there was no TV yet, there lived a basketball player named Agpayso Nga Kaasi. He was the star of a basketball team in the UAAP (United Athletic Association of Pangasinan) basketball championships. He would score baskets with the ease of a barber cutting a customer's hair.

One day, Agpayso Nga Kaasi lost his balance during a scramble for a loose ball. It happened in a game preceding the championship match featuring his team against his team's arch-rival.

In that incident, Agpayso Nga Kaasi was slapped a foul. Surprised, he inquired about the foul.

"For losing your balance," said the referee.

Back then, you were allowed three questions.

"Is chasing a loose ball legal?"

"Yes," said the referee. "But if you should fall while in the act of chasing, that's foul."

His last question was: "Will I be allowed to play in the championship?"

"Yes," came the reply of the referee.

But an official from the opposing team brought the matter to the commissioner.

"Please investigate Agpayso Nga Kaasi," he told the commissioner. "I think his foot touched the foot of my player when Agpayso Nga Kaasi fell while diving for the loose ball."

The commissioner was absent during the game. He was away drinking gin at Pitik's, a favorite haunt of basketball people.

He asked around. He called the janitor.

"Did you see Agpayso Nga Kaasi's foot touch the foot of another player when he fell?"

The janitor said: "I mopped the floor because it was slippery. My fault. I didn't mop the floor well."

The commissioner next asked the security guard: "Did Agpayso Nga Kaasi complain about the foul slapped him on his way out of the gym?"

"No sir," said the security guard. "Such a nice kid. He gave me his jersey as a souvenir."

Next morning, the newspaper headline was: "Star player suspended for throwing a flying kick." In the story, Agpayso Nga Kaasi was labeled as guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct.

The following day, Agpayso Nga Kaasi, seated helplessly at the sidelines, watched his team lose the championship.

That evening, after the game, the security guard found himself drinking gin at Pitik's. When he saw the commissioner drinking gin in another table, he approached him and asked: "Sir, I'm sad with your ruling to suspend Agpayso Nga Kaasi that's why I'm drinking."

"Let's drink to that," said the commissioner, raising his glass.

The security guard drew his gun. Shot and killed the commissioner.

Next morning, the newspaper headline was: "Guard kills commissioner in self defense."

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PBA CUP

Purefoods trips Shell

By June Navarro

Standings	W	L
z-Red Bull	7	3
y-San Miguel	6	3
y-Sta. Lucia	6	3
x-Alaska	6	3
x-Coca-Cola	6	4
x-FedEx	6	4
x-Talk N Text	4	5
x-Shell	4	6
Selecta-RP	3	7
*Purefoods	3	7
*Ginebra	2	8

z-top quarterfinalist
y-assured of twice-to-beat edge
x-assured of quarterfinals berth
*-eliminated

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
3:45 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Alaska
5:45 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel

PUREFOODS saved its face from further disgrace after beating Shell, 79-75, at the close of its campaign in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup last night at the Philsports Arena on a dignified note.

Warren Rosegreen spent all of his energy in the final half, pouring 22 of his game-high 32 points as the Hotdogs scored their first back-to-back victories of the conference and finished their mid-season stint at 3-7.

"Seeing your players dish out a superb performance even if we're already out of the quarterfinals is a satisfying experience," said Purefoods head coach Ryan Gregorio, who steered the Hotdogs to the Governors Cup crown last conference.

In the second game, Federal Express crushed Barangay Ginebra, 107-91, to cap its elimination stint at 6-4. Despite the win, the Express didn't make the top 4 going into the quarterfinals. The Kings finished at 2-8.

The setback shattered the Turbo Chargers' aspiration of earning the No.7 ranking going into the quarterfinals. With four wins and six losses, the Turbo Chargers are bound to meet topseed Batang Red Bull in the next round.

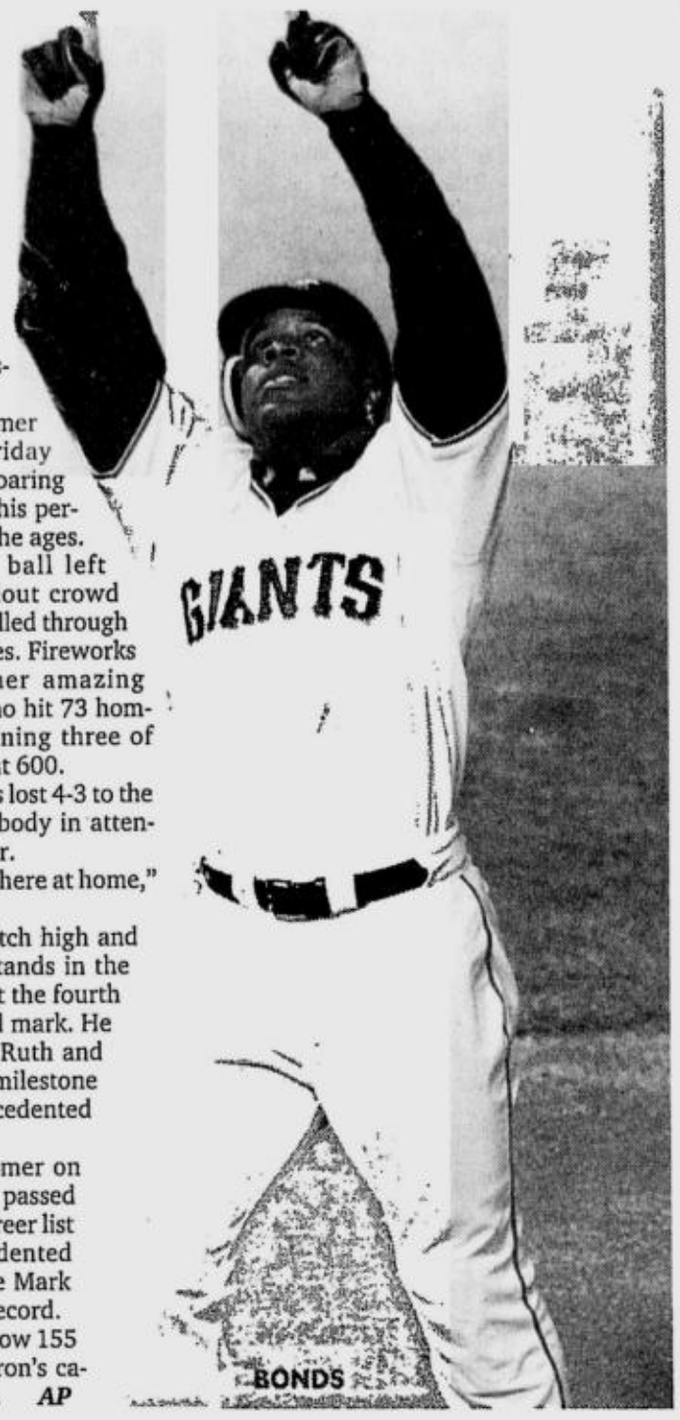
Scores: First game

PUREFOODS 79—Rosegreen 32, Morris 15, Cantonjos 13, Magsanoc 7, Evangelista 5, Patrimonio 4, Victoria 3, Raymundo 0, Guerrero 0, Mendiola 0.

SHELL 75—Banks 27, Hrabak 15, Jackson 14, Dela Cruz 5, Marzan 5, Calaguio 5, Del Rosario 2, Bajar 2, Singson 0.

Quarters: 23-17, 36-44, 56-57, 79-75.

Bonds makes history



BONDS

SAN FRANCISCO—Barry Bonds prefers to make history in front of his friends.

Bonds hit his 600th homer on an unusually warm Friday night at Pacific Bell Park, roaring past another milestone in his personal home run derby for the ages.

From the instant the ball left Bonds' black bat, the sellout crowd roared in an ovation that rolled through the park for several minutes. Fireworks flew to celebrate another amazing achievement by Bonds, who hit 73 homers last season before joining three of baseball's greatest hitters at 600.

The San Francisco Giants lost 4-3 to the Pittsburgh Pirates, but nobody in attendance is likely to remember.

"It's a relief, because it's here at home," Bonds said.

Bonds put Kip Wells' pitch high and deep in the center field stands in the sixth inning to become just the fourth player to reach the rarified mark. He joined Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth and Willie Mays with another milestone achievement in his unprecedented two-year power surge.

Bonds hit his 500th homer on April 17, 2001, and he has passed 13 players on baseball's career list since then in an unprecedented display. In 2001, he broke Mark McGwire's single-season record.

The 38-year-old star is now 155 home runs from tying Aaron's career record for home runs. ***AP***

Eagle Ridge tourney set

WITH a continuing cycle of sponsorships from the country's major equipment distributors, the monthly tournaments for members of the sprawling Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club have been steadily growing. Not even the strongest of rains can stop the members from taking the challenge.

After successful legs hosted by Mizuno and Wilson, Callaway comes in as event sponsor for the August stop slated on the 17th of the month to be played of the Aoki course—the friendliest of Eagle's four-course package which is open only to members on weekends.

Although Hector Miole (Class A) and Arnaldo Bautusta (Class B) have been undefeated in the higher divisions the last two months, there have been a steady stream of new winners—foreign expats included—the past legs.

Constantly changing weather and course conditions are keeping the players in Classes C, D and the ladies divisions to dominate and returning champs Frank Juane (Class C), Leonardo Limantud (Class D) and Arlette Dizon (ladies) know the kind of pressure they will have to handle.

The bids of Miole and Bautista to stretch their winning streak is also expected to face stiff opposition. The side-events for the longest drive and nearest-the-pin have all been hotly contested as well.

Just as exciting is the monthly competition for the club's senior citizens.

As the August edition of the freshly organized event for the 55 and above members will not be held until the end of the month on the 29th, the next few weeks will give them time to practice harder.

Finals slots chase resumes at Manila Golf

THE CHASE for finals slots continues tomorrow and Tuesday (Aug. 12-13) when the sixth leg of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) Circuit is held at the plush Manila Golf Club course inside Forbes Park.

Trooping to the course for the first day of competitions are the entries in Class B where most of the excitement in the series had exploded. There had been five different winners in the previous five legs.

The Class A and Class C divisions will be disputed on Tuesday.

Sta. Elena, winner of the overall championship the past two years, will be gunning for its fourth win in Class A while Alabang and Aguinaldo will be leading the bets in Class C.

Clubs are gunning for the four slots in the season-ending WGAP Cup which follows the format of the Ryder Cup.

In the previous leg played at Sherwood Hills, Sta. Elena topped Class A by a close two-point margin over arch-rival Southwoods and made it two-of-three by annexing Class B with an even tighter one-point win over Villamor. Alabang broke into the win column by edging Mt. Malarayat for the Class crown.

Meanwhile, the WGAP is in the thick of preparations for the Luzvimin Invitational on Aug. 21-23 at the Cebu Country Club.

Juvenile Stakes races get going today

THE MANILA Jockey Club Inc. stages the start of the 2002 Philracom Juvenile Stakes Series today with four major races carrying a pot of P2.7 million on tap at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Rising two-year-old horses are seeing action in the featured P1-million Bishop Blue and Cool Star Stakes Races as well as in the companion twin-bill Hopeful Stakes Race.

"We would like to thank the Philracom for once again supporting the running of the two-year-old stakes races," said MJCI president Alfonso Reyno Jr.

Competing Cool Star Stakes are six classy two-year-old fillies led by recent sweepstakes race winner Real Diamond. Challenging her for the crown are Dona Gelay, impressive winner of three races in four starts, and the still undefeated Shinning Pyramid. Others in the hunt include Forever Joyce, Tatler Cover and Noor.

Meanwhile, five two-year-old colts are seeing action in the Bishop Blue Stakes set over the distance of 1,425 meters. Coupled-entries High Octane and Real Tough from the Hermie Esguerra Stable are expected to be installed as favorites. High Octane, by Hazm our of Rosegardenqueen, is still unbeaten after four starts while Real Tough is a full brother to champion galloper Real Top.

Opposing them are Brute Force, undefeated Diktador and Main Event.

Winner of the Cool star and Bishop Blue Stakes Races are guaranteed to receive P600,000, with the three other placers getting P225,000, P125,000 and P50,000, respectively in prize money.

Baguio booters land 3rd

MASBATE ripped Baguio City, 4-1, yesterday to finish third in the Luzon finals of the national men's football tournament at the Philsports field in Pasig City.

Rufino Almodal scored a hat-trick to power the Masbate booters to victory after they surged to a 2-0 halftime lead.

Almodal delivered his markers in the 25th, 39th and 58th minutes. Edarlito Doremon sealed the victory with a goal in the 72nd.

Carlomar Elnabbib knocked in Baguio's lone goal.

Heavily favored NCR, represented by Air Force, battled surprise finalist Rizal Province for the Luzon crown later yesterday.

NCR's Edzel Bracamonte leads the race for the tourney's Best Striker award by scoring nine goals in five games.

The other leading scorers are Masbate's Almodal with seven, Rizal's Dennis Guavis and Richard Torres with four and three, respectively; Masbate's Pedro Sola and Severino Floresta and NCR's Winnie Subere with three goals each.

Not just about Wind Blown and Magical Mark

FOUR major events are lined up but my Silip Boy said there are 14 big reasons why *kareristas* are trooping to the San Lazaro Hippodrome today.

He's of course referring to the number of races on tap, all well-handicapped and enticing enough that I may just set foot again on the historic Tayuman race track and enjoy the action there.

Taking centerstage this afternoon are the country's top juvenile colts and fillies who will collide in the Bishop Blue Stakes and Cool Star Stakes, respectively. Backing these up are the two Hopeful Stakes and 10 other class-division races.

Everyone's eyes will be fixed anew on the entries of Hermie Esguerra whose top bets today are High Octane and Real Tough in the Bishop Blue and Tatler Cover in the Cool Star. The sportsman-businessman from Plaridel, Bulacan is also fielding Silakbo, Siete de Marso and Sandata in the Hopeful races.

In the past few weeks or so, Hermie's stable has emerged the winningest and the most popular, thanks largely to his superbly-conditioned gallopers led by champions Wind Blown and Magical Mark.

Hermie's stable, my Silip Boy observed, is not just all about Wind Blown and Magical Mark. Like a basketball team, my Silip Boy noted that the Esguerra stable owns the deepest bench of horses nowadays.

Aside from those mentioned above, the Hermie Esguerra Stable has also reaped victories through Pay Check, Tumataginting, Sabik, Bulakeña, Baby Lite, Kayang Kaya and Bukambibig.

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

"What's the secret of the Esguerra Stable? *Lahat yata ng kabayo nito kundisyon na kundisyon?*" my Silip Boy asked.

I once had a chance to visit Hermie's stable at Santa Ana and probably, there lies the answer to my SB's question.

Horses quartered there (and maybe also those at San Lazaro) are well-taken cared of, enjoying the benefits of the modern facilities Hermie acquired to "pamper" his gallopers and at the same time keep them in their fightingest form.

Also, the stable enjoys the services of the country's leading jockeys like Dhunoy Raquel, Unoh Hernandez, Val Dilema and Oyet Alcasid. And that's perhaps why the Hermie Esguerra Stable is now reaping the fruits of success.

* * *

Myther Cedric Buñag, whom Myther and Susan lovingly call "Liit," turned eight yesterday.

Of course, dad Myther threw a big birthday bash at Myther and Friends for Liit, whose godparents include President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Mayor Lito Atienza, who incidentally also turned a new leaf yesterday.

Happy birthday!

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Dream Play 2. Super Sharp 3. Going Free
Race 2—1. Sun Chief 2. Bemedalled Ruler 3. Masagana 4. Rainbow Dazzler
Race 3—1. Bohemyo 2. Aprey's Choice 3. Kiss Em Goodbye
Race 4—1. Silakbo/Siete de Marso 2. Go Ichi 3. Earl Gray 4. Rolex
Race 5—1. King Philip 2. Musikero 3. Friendly Venture 4. Speed Mountain 5. Sperecosta 6. Aaron's Hope
Race 6—1. Tatler Cover 2. Shining Pyramid 3. Real Diamond
Race 7—1. Good Quality 2. Water Girl 3. Timeless Beauty 4. Thunder Strike 5. Bull Strike
Race 8—1 High Octane/Real Tough 2. Diktador
Race 9—1. Bold Advance 2. Cristel Jay 3. Golden Tale 4. American Beauty
Race 10—1. Sandata 2. Queen Matawe 3. Speed Machine 4. Inner Silence 5. Sniper
Race 11—1: Royal Bet 2. Shuttle's Magic 3. Maniaman 4. Rackstar 5. Yes Sir 6. Baby Love
Race 12—1. Breakaway Artist 2. Loose Cannon 3. Absolute Power 4. Mr. Lucas
Race 13—1. Tower of Power 2. Centennial 3. Party Princess 4. Dragon Doding
Race 14—1. Morning Nell 2. Divine Diva 3. Queen Storm 4. Miguel's Pet 5. Top Bullet 6. Patago

Liberty clinch East crown

WASHINGTON—Becky Hammon matched her career high with 22 points as the New York Liberty clinched the Eastern Conference title with a 74-66 victory over Washington on Friday night.

Crystal Robinson added 15 points to help the Liberty (18-12) take a two-game lead over Washington and Charlotte (both 16-14) with two games remaining for all three teams.

New York won the season series with Washington 2-1, and also holds the tiebreaker over Charlotte, which clinched a playoff spot Friday night with a victory at Minnesota.

Hammon was 5-of-6 from 3-point range, with her final 3-pointer giving the Liberty a 61-47 lead with 5:30 left. ***AP***

RP trackster reaches final

COLOMBO Sri Lanka—Filipino Ernie Candelario poured everything he's got in the final bend and advanced to the men's 400 finals Friday at the start of the 14th Asian Athletic Championships at the Sugathadasa Stadium here.

Barely recovered from a bout with flu two weeks ago, Candelario landed fourth in heat 2 of the semifinals to figure in the eight-man cast that would vie for medals at 4:50 p.m. (6:50 p.m. in Manila) Saturday.

His teammate, Jimar Aying, failed to qualify, however, after also placing fourth in the slower heat 1.

The 25-year-old Candelario clocked 46.98 seconds, ranking sixth among the finalists led by Saudi Arabia's Al Bishi Hamdam (45.82). Aying checked in at 49.50.

"I'm satisfied with my performace I was able to train for only 12 days and besides the field is really strong," said Candelario.

Little Olympics expands with 11 sports

AFTER the recently concluded Palarong Pambansa, young people can look forward to another exciting and fun-filled opportunity to get into sports with the launching of the 14th Milo Little Olympics recently.

The Milo Little Olympics is bigger this year with a total of 11 sports, namely badminton, gymnastics, lawn tennis, chess, table tennis, taekwondo, athletics, swimming, football and new addition sepak takraw.

Due to the sport's growing popularity in the country and the rest of Asia, sepak takraw is now one of the exciting sport in which students can compete under the program.

ARCILLA

The Milo Little Olympics was first launched in Metro Manila by Milo, the Olympic Energy Drink, in line with the brand's long-term commitment to promote sports and youth development.

It was expanded to include Cebu in 1996, Cagayan de Oro in 1997, and Pangasinan in 1998. Over the years, the Milo Little Olympics has seen increasing participation by students, who now number in the tens of thousands. Last year's participants totaled over 35,000, the biggest number ever in its history.

According to Jackby Jaime, Milo sports executive, the Milo Little Olympics is a stepping-stone for participants toward further involvement in sports events like regional athletic meets, the Palarong Pambansa and other national competitions.

Famous Filipino sports figures who started in the Milo Little Olympics include the Sydney Olympic swimmer Lizza Danila, chess champion Emmanuel Emperado, tennis pro Johnny Arcilla, taekwondo expert John Paul Lizardo, and gymnast Pia Adelle Reyes.

The Milo Little Olympics kick off in Lingayen, Pangasinan on Aug. 9 with competitions lasting up to Aug. 18.

Then it will open in Cagayan de Oro on Aug. 23, with games on Aug. 24, 25, 31 and Sept. 1.

After the Cagayan de Oro leg, it will open in Cebu City on Sept. 13, with competitions scheduled on Sept. 14, 15, 21 and 22.

Rubin ends Serena Williams' 21-match winning streak

MANHATTAN BEACH, California—Chanda Rubin upset topseeded Serena Williams 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 in Friday's quarterfinals of the JPChase Morgan Open, ending the French Open and Wimbledon champion's 21-match winning streak.

No. 2 Jennifer Capriati exited within an hour of Williams, losing 6-3, 6-3 to Japan's Ai Sugiyama.

"Everyone has their off-days," a dejected Capriati said.

Williams hadn't lost since a three-set defeat to Justine Henin in the German Open final on May 12.

Besides her titles in the two consecutive Grand Slam events, Williams' streak included the Italian Open and saw her move into the world's No. 1 ranking for the first time.

"This isn't a setback. I'm still No. 1 and I still plan on getting that (U.S.) Open," she said. "It really doesn't matter to me."

Hewitt clips Agassi

MASON, Ohio—Lleyton Hewitt outlasted Andre Agassi, 7-5, 6-3, Friday night in a battle of baseline bombers to advance to the semifinals of the $2.95 million Cincinnati Masters Series.

Hewitt, the No. 1-ranked player in the world, and Agassi, a former No. 1, provided some brilliant and some spotty tennis in the match that lasted 1 hour, 41 minutes. ***AP***

Woods fires 63, grabs 4-shot lead in Buick

GRAND BLANC, Michigan—Tiger Woods is in his major mode a week early.

Woods, playing in his first tournament since his chance for a Grand Slam ended, shot a 9-under 63 Friday and pulled away from the field, leading by four strokes after two rounds at the Buick Open.

Woods has won 15 of 19 tournaments he has led or been the co-leader of after 36 holes. Woods, who began the day two strokes behind Kent Jones, had five birdies on the front nine and two birdies and an eagle on the back. He has gone 51 holes without a bogey, dating to the final round of the British Open, what could have been the third leg of the Grand Slam.

The last major, the PGA Championship, is next week at Hazeltine in Minnesota.

At 10 under were Scott Verplank, who shot a 65, and J.J. Henry, who was 5 under for the second straight day. Verplank's first win as a professional was at Warwick Hills in 1988.

Six lesser-known players—Jones, Pat Bates, Rod Pampling, Glen Day, Esteban Toledo and Carlos Franco—were at 9 under. Among the group, Pampling is highest on the money list at 95th, and Franco is the lowest at No. 133.

There are eight players at 8 under, including Jim Furyk and defending PGA Championship winner David Toms.

Woods, who has won seven of the last 12 major tournaments, has a chance this week and next to add to his impressive resume.

If Woods wins the Buick Open and the PGA Championship he would be the first player to win three majors in one year twice. Ben Hogan did it in 1953 and Woods did it two years ago.

He would also be the first player to win a major after winning a tournament the previous week since Lee Trevino won the Canadian Open and the British Open in consecutive weeks 31 years ago.

Woods won this year's Masters and U.S. Open, the first two legs of the Grand Slam.

Woods' most-impressive performance on Friday came at No. 16.

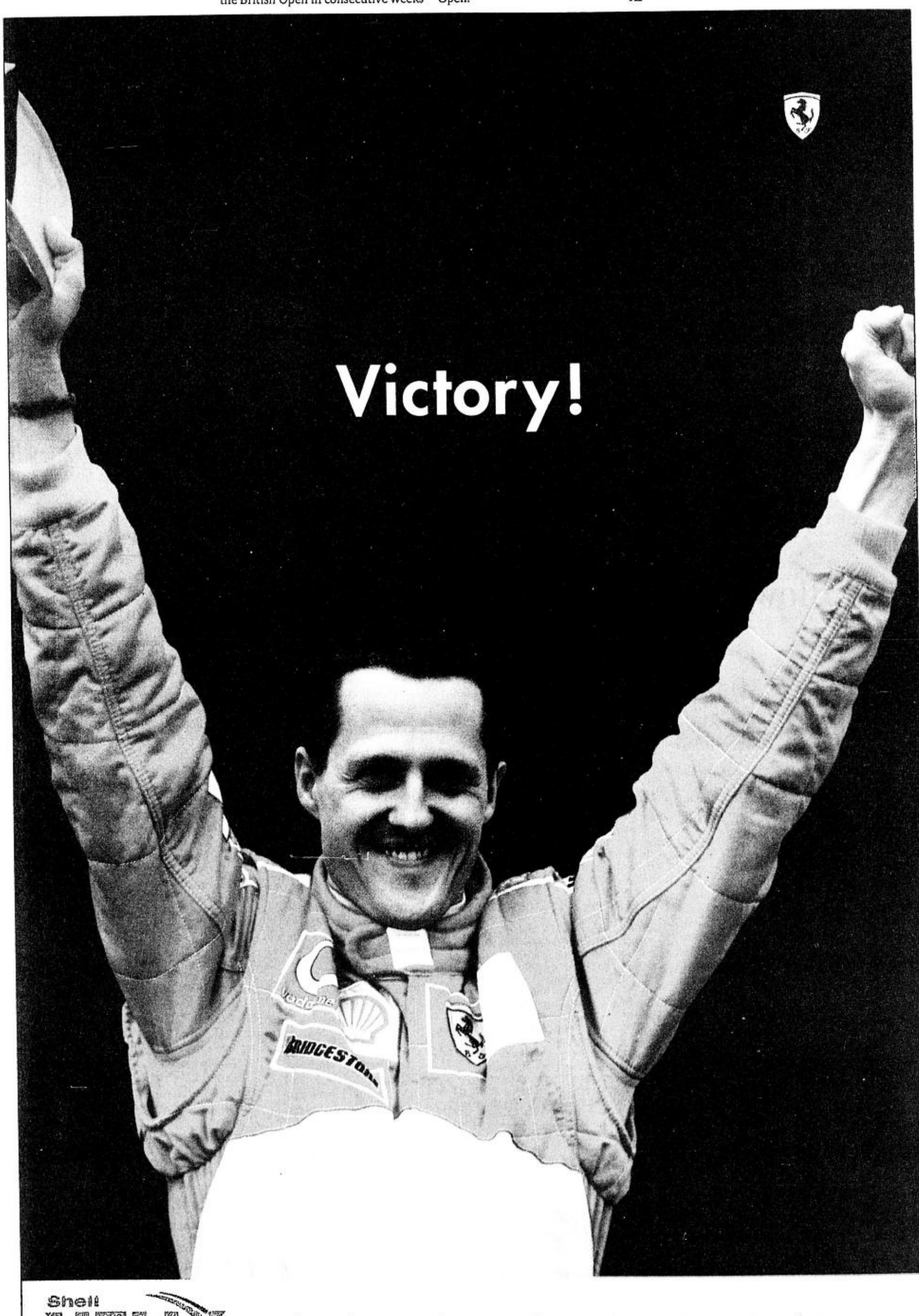
His drive landed in the right rough and was 266 yards (242 meters) from the pin. Woods cut his second shot with a 2-iron around a tree and onto the green, and made a 6-foot (2-meter) putt for eagle.

Woods is playing the week before a major for the fourth time and all of those tournaments have been the Buick Open.

In his previous three visits to Warwick Hills, he finished tied for eighth in 1997, tied for fourth in 1998 and tied for 11th in 2000 before going on to win the PGA Championship as the third leg of his "Tiger Slam."

The Buick Open is one of three tournaments Woods has played in at least three times without winning. The other two are the Nissan Open and Phoenix Open. ***AP***

WOODS lines up his eagle putt on the 16th hole. AP



2nd round scores:

Tiger Woods	67-63-130	Chris DiMarco	68-72-140
Scott Verplank	69-65-134	Fred Couples	70-70-140
J.J. Henry	67-67-134	Mark Brooks	66-74-140
Pat Bates	68-67-135	Frank Lickliter II	67-73-140
Kent Jones	65-70-135	Shaun Micheel	68-72-140
Rod Pampling	69-66-135	Carl Paulson	70-70-140
Glen Day	67-68-135	Brian Gay	69-71-140
Esteban Toledo	68-67-135	Tom Gillis	71-69-140
Carlos Franco	68-67-135	Brad Lardon	69-71-140
Luke Donald	67-69-136	J.L. Lewis	70-71-141
Tommy Tolles	72-64-136	Paul Goydos	71-70-141
Jim Furyk	69-67-136	Skip Kendall	69-72-141
Bart Bryant	67-69-136	Kenneth Staton	74-67-141
Blaine McCallister	68-68-136	Stephen Ames	70-71-141
David Toms	68-68-136	Brian Henninger	71-70-141
Robert Damron	67-69-136	Brenden Pappas	72-69-141
Bob Tway	71-65-136	Franklin Langham	73-69-142
Retief Goosen	70-67-137	David Berganio, Jr.	68-74-142
John Senden	68-69-137	Bob Burns	72-70-142
Fred Funk	71-66-137	Kenny Perry	73-69-142
Jeff Sluman	70-67-137	Billy Mayfair	72-70-142
Tom Pernice, Jr.	69-68-137	Tom Scherrer	70-72-142
Mark O'Meara	68-69-137	Craig Perks	70-72-142
Tom Byrum	70-68-138	Jeff Gallagher	68-74-142
Vijay Singh	70-68-138	David Peoples	72-70-142
Jeff Brehaut	72-66-138	Phil Tataurangi	71-71-142
Brian Watts	71-68-139	Matt Peterson	73-69-142
Ben Crane	70-69-139	Brett Wetterich	74-68-142
Paul Azinger	69-70-139	Greg Kraft	73-69-142
Billy Andrade	68-71-139	Jay Williamson	71-71-142
Phil Mickelson	69-70-139	Geoff Ogilvy	72-70-142
Joel Edwards	69-70-139	Corey Pavin	70-72-142
Robin Freeman	70-69-139	Glen Hnatiuk	74-68-142
David Morland IV	70-69-139	Heath Slocum	69-73-142
Richie Coughlan	71-68-139	Craig Barlow	71-71-142
Jay Haas	67-72-139	**Failed to qualify**	
Russ Cochran	71-68-139	Ian Leggatt	72-71-143
Jose Coceres	73-66-139	Spike McRoy	68-75-143
Mike Weir	72-67-139	Michael Long	74-69-143
Stuart Appleby	71-68-139	Eduardo Herrera	73-70-143
Dicky Pride	70-70-140	Paul Gow	74-69-143
Tripp Isenhour	73-67-140	Rocco Mediate	71-72-143
Steve Flesch	72-68-140	Jim Carter	73-70-143
K.J. Choi	66-74-140	Hal Sutton	67-76-143
John Cook	69-71-140	Ted Tryba	71-72-143
Mike Heinen	72-68-140	Olin Browne	74-69-143
Steve Allan	72-68-140	Joey Sindelar	71-72-143

Jenny keeps hopes alive for 1st pro win

WHEN the conditions should have been milder in a morning tee-off , Jenny Rosales found the reverse in the second round of the $1.5 million Women's British Open yesterday in Turnberry, Scotland.

But Rosales overcame the surprising gusts that made the biting cold almost unbearable as she carded a two-under-par 70 on Friday to stay on track for her first victory as a professional.

And a major one at that.

Rosales stayed in focus for the $243,000 (about P12.2 million) winner's paycheck with her 139 total just three strokes off the pacesetting 136 of rookie Candie Kung and Carin Koch.

The 23-year-old Rosales was tied for eighth spot with Korean hotshot Se Ri Pak and seven others. She is paired with the celebrated Pak in the third round at 1:35 p.m. Saturday (9:35 p.m. Manila time).

She prepared for her big date with Pak by taking a long hot bath that allowed her relax from the punishing weather.

On a day when Swede star Annika Sorenstam finally missed a cut after 74 straight tournaments, Rosales redeemed herself from her own missed-cut experience last year by joining a crowded leaderboard with a 33 in the backnine where she had four birdies.

Dorothy Delasin scored a 71 for 141 and was among those in 25th place.

Kung held on to a piece of the lead after a 71 while Koch had another 68. Two-time champion Karrie Webb of Australia, Spain's Paula Marti and two Americans, rookie Beth Bauer and Tiny Barrett were just a stroke behind.

Sorenstam, winner of six tournaments this year including one major — the Nabisco Championship — lost her record streak of 74 consecutive cuts. The Swede, whose last missed cut was at the 1999 U.S. Women's Open, carded a 77 for a two-round total of 150, 6-over par. The cut was 1-over. ***Jong Arcano***

The second round scores:

136 - Carin Koch 68-68, Candie Kung 65-71

137 - Beth Bauer 70-67, Paula Marti 69-68, Tina Barrett 67-70, Karrie Webb 66-71

138 - Elisabeth Esterl 67-71

139 – Jenny Rosales 69-70, Wendy Doolan 70-69, Catrin Nilsmark 70-69, Angela Stanford 69-70, Natalie Gulbis 69-70, Pat Hurst 69-70, Michelle Ellis 69-70, Emilee Klein 68-71, Se Ri Pak 67-72

Shell HELIX
Superior engine protection proven in the extreme.

For the fifth time around, Shell Helix congratulates Michael Schumacher for winning the Driver's Championship. Shell Helix' superior engine protection sees him through his victories with the Ferrari Formula 1 team, proving its superior performance even under the extreme conditions of Formula 1 racing. If every victory determines performance, Shell Helix users are riding on a winner.

Jolet seeks 5th straight super bike crown

DEFENDING champion Jolet Jao of Shell-Rolex Engineering Racing Team tries to move closer to an unprecedented fifth title in six years when the seventh and eighth rounds of the 2002 Shell Advance Super Bike Series resume this weekend at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Finding little challenge from his closest rivals in five of the previous six rounds, Jao is expected to sweep the next two rounds and strengthen his bid for the prestigious "Rider of the Year" title in this 12-part series organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) and sponsored by Shell Advance Motorcycle Oils.

The 37-year-old campaigner from Candaba, Pampanga, who holds the distinction as the only rider in local history to win the titles in motocross, scooter and road racing, dominated the first five rounds before losing to arch-rival Toti Alberto in the sixth round.

"There are still six rounds left, but I like my chances," said Jao, who won the overall title in 1997, 1998, 2000 and 2001. "I just have to be a little more careful next time to keep the momentum and move closer to the title."

Overall, Jao has a six-leg aggregate of 140 points based on the 25-20-17-15-13 scoring system in this National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Corporation-sanctioned competition.

His closest rival, Alberto, is a distant second overall with 125.

Rounding out the top five riders are Rod Scott, third with 120 points; Rey Relativo, fourth with 98 points and Randy Ortiz, fifth with 75 points.

"Shell's race-track tested lubricants and motorcycle oils surely helped a lot joining Shell's stable of champions in 2000.

He also noted the assistance of Gregorio "Yoyong" Buncio, technical adviser; and Stephen Acdul and Ronel Lumunsad, chief mechanics. Acdul was the same mechanic who helped Jao win the first of his four motorcross titles in 1989.

5-stag derby screening in full swing

SCREENING of stags (eight to 10 months old) is now in full swing in connection with Las Piñas Cockpit's Annual 5—Stag Derby on Aug. 26 and 28, traditionally the opener of the stagfighting season.

Proceeds of this fund-raising event will be donated to the Clean project of Las Piñas City mayor Nene Aguilar. A guaranteed pot of P500,000 await the winners plus three refrigerators, trophy and P5,000 worth of Thunderbird products from Thunderbird. Entry fee is P11,000.

Every participant will likewise receive P2,000 bonus but certificate from Casino Filipino—Parañaque.

Stags will be bracketed into four classifications to make sure that matched entries are of the same age.

Screenings are held at Las Piñas Cockpit every Saturday and Sunday, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

For appointment on farm-to-farm screening, please contact 873-1040, 534-1195 or 871-4345.

A total fo 68 participants competed last year.

Mandaluyong hosts Bates tilt

THE ANNUAL Richard L. Bates 7-Stag National Derby is all set on Aug 27 and 29 at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. To host the event is well-known American breeder Richard Bates.

The elimination round (3-stag) is set on Aug. 27 (Thursday) while the finals (4-stag) is on Aug. 29 (Thursday).

For appointment on farm-to-farm screening, interested parties may contact Bates at 0916-3156991, (046) – (046) – 4140750, 824-0237 and 0916-3924512.

Screening will also be held at the Mandaluyong Coliseum on Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

UCAP rules will be followed. Stags banded by UCAP, NGBA, MIGBA, Balbina and GF-BAN will be accepted but subject to re-classification. Entry fee is P15,000 and minimum bet is P11,000. Weight limits are from 1.7 kgs. to 2.2 kgs.

Alabang NC bags Pinoy Futbol Club

ALABANG Nite Club edged F1 selection in the third of three nerve-wracking matches, 1-0, in the Pinoy Futbol Cup recently at the Cuenca field in Ayala Alabang.

Both teams had earlier battled to 1-1 and 2-2 draws.

Tough defense, timely saves by goalkeeper David Yulo and the offensive play of striker Bong Ramos keyed Alabang Nite Club's victory.

Ramos scored the winning goal in the third match after deflecting an enemy pass and sending the ball past F1 goalie Ton.

It was a well-deserved win for the Alabang Nite Club, making it the first official holder of the Pinoy Futbol Cup.

Fistorama fights at Mandaue Complex

SAN MIGUEL Beer's Fistorama today features the exciting match between RP No. 1 Rodel Mayol against 5th ranking Nino Suelo in 12 rounds for the championship in the minimum weight division. The fight was held recently at the Mandaue City Sports Complex in a fight card promoted by Terry Carter. Fistorama is aired every Sunday noontime on RPN 9.

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LPGA Sybase Big Apple Classic, Final Round at 12 noon (r - midnight) on ESPN
TENNIS: Western and Southern Financial Masters (Cincinnati), Men's Quarterfinal Match at 9:30 a.m. (r), Men's Semifinal Match #1 at 7 p.m., Match #2 at 9 p.m. on Star Sports
BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour, Semifinals & Finals at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN

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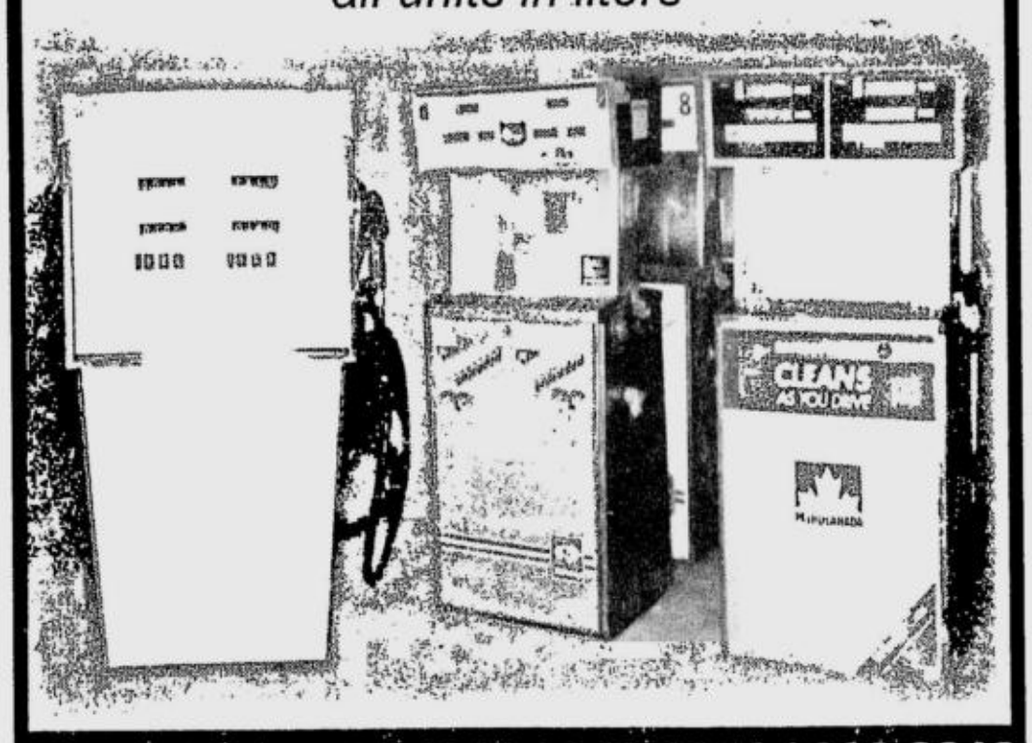
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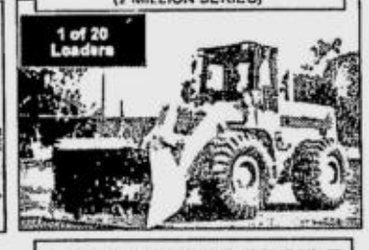
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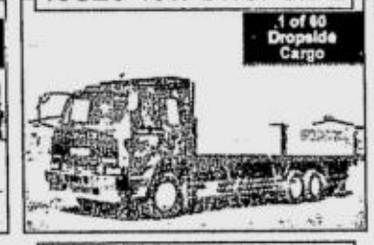
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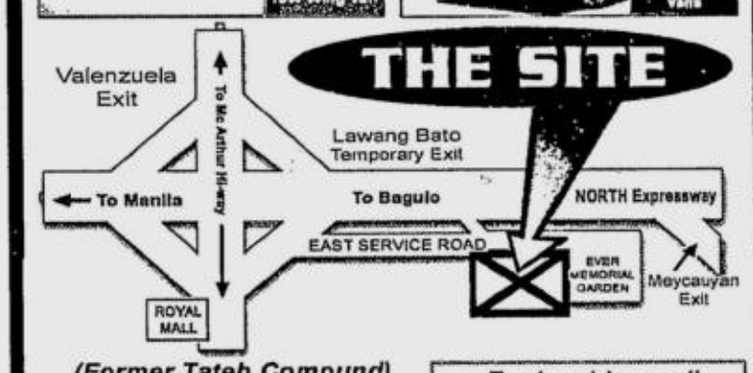

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VALDA (right): Will most likely go to Busan. ERNIE SARMIENTO

RP surpasses 7-gold forecast, harvests 8

By June Navarro

Final Medal Tally	G	S	B
Vietnam	12	7	2
Philippines	8	8	4
Thailand	2	1	3
Indonesia	0	5	8
Cambodia	0	1	1
Malaysia	0	0	1

MARCUS Araneta Valda outclassed Ho Si Ninh of Vietnam to cap the Filipinos' sterling perfomance yesterday at the close of the IV Southeast Asian Wrestling Championship at the Rizal Memorial badminton hall.

The 21-year-old Valda, a nephew of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, seized his second gold medal after beating Ninh in the 96-kg Freestyle category to boost his chances of earning a seat in the Asian Games-bound national team.

Valda, who beat Ninh in the finals of the 96-kg Greco-Roman event on Thursday, pushed the Nationals' final medal tally to eight golds, eight silvers and four bronzes, four gold medals short of Vietnam's output to emerge second overall behind the Vietnamese in the six-nation meet.

Earlier, Asian Games-bound Francis Villanueva, winner of two gold medals in the 2000 SEAWC, also grabbed the spotlight after beating Indonesia's Antoni Timbul in the 120-kg Freestyle category.

Jimmy Angana, a strong bet for the national team to the Asiad, snared his first gold medal in the 60-kg Freestyle event at the expense of Vietnam's Phang Due Thong. Angana seized two silvers in the 2000 edition of the SEAWC.

Melchor Tumasis, at 31 the oldest from the RP Team, defeated Zulhaldir of Indonesia while Cristine Villanueva overpowered Thailand's Onanong Jarse as they both scored gold medals for the Nationals.

The Philippines' 8-8-4 medal finish more than doubled the Nationals' three-gold output in the 2000 SEAWC. It surpassed the forecast of National coach Lodoi Enkhbayar from Mongolia, who said the Filipinos were good for at least seven gold medals.

Wrestling Association of the Philippines secretary general Red Dumuk said Valda and Angana would be highly recommended to join the Busan-bound national team.

North Korea stint for 8 Busan-bound Pinoy boxers a first

TEAM Caltex Philippines goes into the final phase of its preparations for the Busan Asian Games next week when eight of the training pool members see action in the Pyongyang International Amateur Boxing Championships in North Korea.

The squad, a mixture of veteran and fresh international campaigners, will pit their talents against the best of Asia and Europe as the event is expecting the participation of at least 15 nations.

The team, led by Olympian Romeo Brin and perennial winner Anthony Igusquiza, leaves on Monday for the Aug. 13-20 tournament.

"The team's campaign in this tournament will be part of local boxing's history since this will be the first time that we will play in North Korea," said Manny Lopez, President of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines. "I'm sure that the boxers will get the needed experience there."

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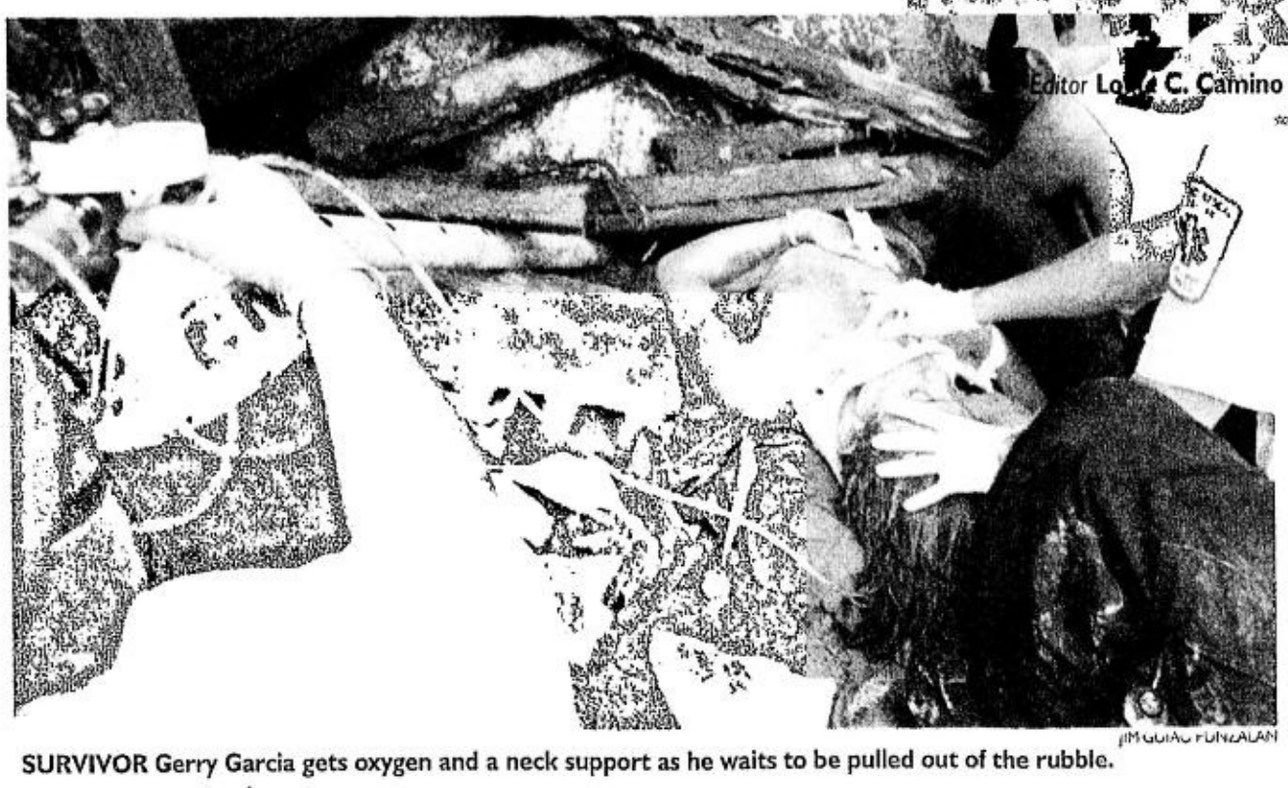
METRO

Editor Lolit C. Camino



SURVIVOR Gerry Garcia gets oxygen and a neck support as he waits to be pulled out of the rubble.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Kris: I'll never fight back even if Alma hits me

By Marinel R. Cruz

NO HAIR was pulled and no angry words were exchanged when Alma Moreno came upon her estranged husband, Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, and his girlfriend Kris Aquino in a hospital in Muntinlupa on Friday morning.

That was because Kris did not fight

KRIS/ p. A24

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San Beda collapse kills 3

By Jerome Aning and Carlito Pablo

THREE construction workers were killed and three others were injured in San Beda College in Manila yesterday morning when the scaffolding in a gymnasium they were building collapsed, burying the workers under concrete and steel.

Jimmy Tadena, 37, Mario Bertero, 40, Fernando Katigbak, 22, were killed on the spot, police said, while Jojo Garcia, 22, his brother Gerry, 20, and Robert Moron, 35, were injured when the scaffolding they were standing on toppled over, police said.

Moron, the chief steelman, was taken to the Mary Chiles Hospital, while the younger Garcia was rushed to the Philippine General Hospital, according to SPO1 David Tuazon.

For five hours, Gerry Garcia was trapped in fresh cement under the collapsed structure

SAN BEDA/ p. A24

GMA offers a comforting hand to Garcia's mother as the worker is treated at the PGH.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

A haven for kids in pain

'KUYA' Dominique Lemay

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero, Contributor

J.J. WAS picked up from the streets. He was about six years old, speechless, autistic. He defecated everywhere and behaved like a monkey. He ate only scraps and leftover, gulping down his food like a dog. He kept shouting and crying.

E., 13, a child prostitute, was very sick, suffering from infection of the ovaries. M., 7, had a hole in her heart. A., 8, was a streetchild hooked on solvent.

TALES OF THE CITY

These are only a few of the thousands of children whom the French-run Virlanie Foundation Inc. has helped through the years.

They are success stories.

J.J. is not totally cured and perhaps never will be. But he is now controllable, follows in-

A HAVEN/ p. A24

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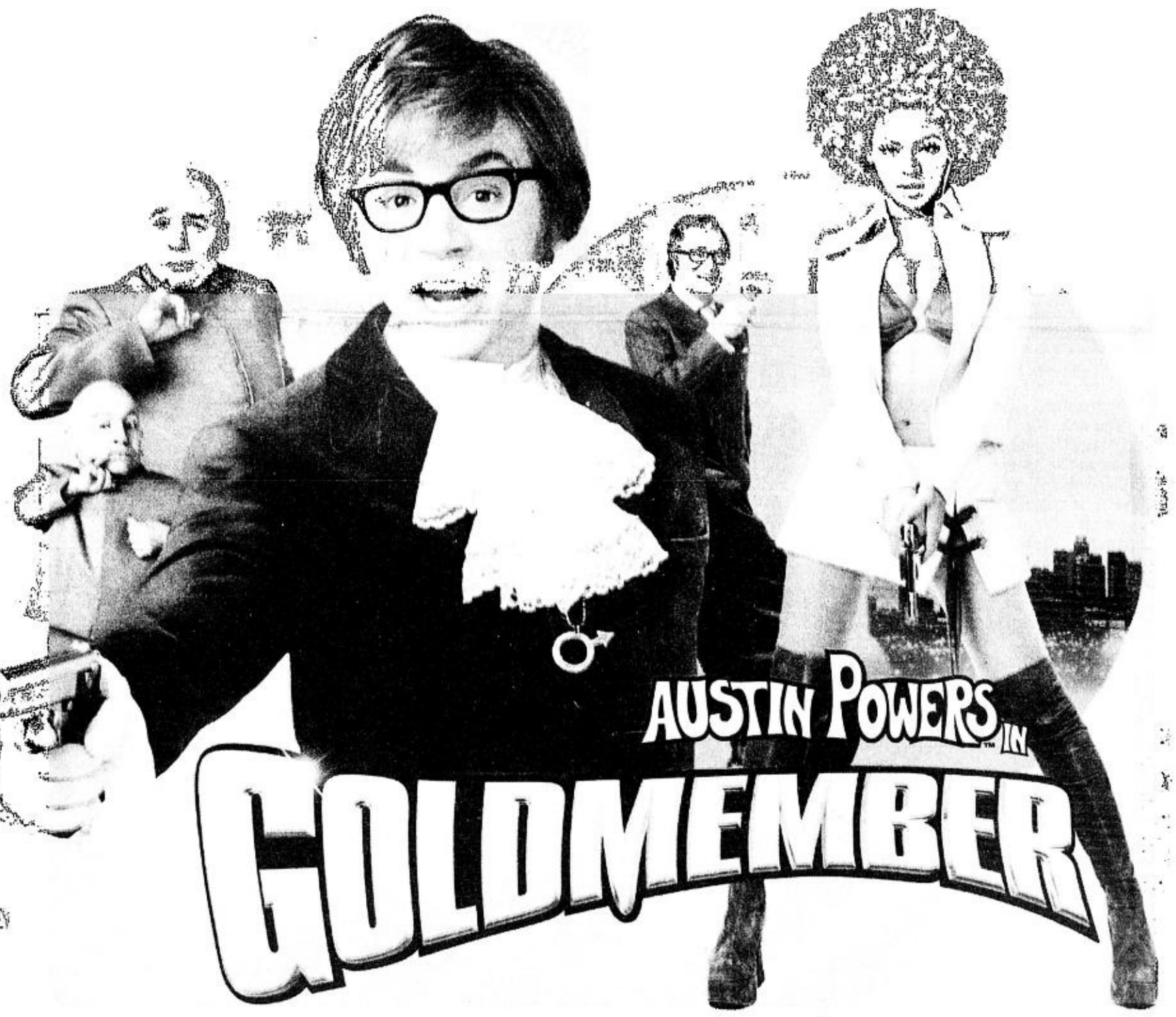

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Manila to 'subdivisionize' Chinatown to fight crime

By Jerome Aning

THE MANILA City Council has approved on first reading a plan that will turn the Chinatown district into a virtual subdivision and install security measures to prevent kidnapping and other crimes.

The author of the proposal, Councilor Don Ramon Bagatsing, said Chinatown should be treated as a big subdivision and given the same strict security measures that are in place in first class Metro Manila villages such as Forbes Park, Bel-Air and White Plains.

The councilor said that Chinatown could only be safe from kidnappers and other criminals if more security measures were in place.

He said among the measures that should be considered are the creation of an employees registry and the setting up of closed circuit television cameras on public places.

The measures, according to Bagatsing's proposed resolution, could be worked out between City Hall, the police, and Chinatown residents and members of trade associations.

According to Bagatsing, the creation of an "employee network database," which requires the registration of all employees working in Chinatown, would deter household servants or employees from undertaking "inside-jobs."

"Most kidnapping cases occur in public places where security is lax," Bagatsing said. "Hardly any occur in private subdivisions because of the strict policy and enforcement rules created by the homeowners association and the security agency it hired."

The alderman also wants surveillance cameras installed throughout the district. The monitoring would be run by the Chinatown traders association with the police having full access.

The mayor should also be given a free hand in evaluating security precautions in the district, Bagatsing added.

He said the commander of the Chinatown police should be directly appointed by the mayor, with the concurrence of the traders' group.

The police community precincts would be abolished and replaced by heavily armed police mobile units that would continuously patrol the district's streets, schools, malls and other public places.

The proposal has been submitted to the Council's committee on public order and safety, chaired by Councilor Edward Tan.

Chinatown–composed of Binondo and portions of Sta. Cruz and Tondo–is the traditional home and workplace of many of the country's ethnic Chinese, whose businesses contribute significantly to the city's tax coffers.

The only city government body overseeing the district is the Chinatown Development Authority. The Western Police District has Task Force Ongpin, which monitors Binondo's busiest street.

Forbes Park to help other barangays

By Leila B. Salaverria

SINCE IT is much better off and has more resources at its disposal than most other barangays, Forbes Park will be helping neighboring barangays solve their problems, according to Barangay Chair Jose Concepcion.

"We will adopt barangays that are near us," Concepcion said. "We will talk to their officials and talk about their problems and what kind of help they need.

"After all, we are a barangay that has a lot of prominent families and I'm sure we can assist (other barangays) in certain things."

Forbes Park is the address of several ambassadors, top executives of the country's biggest businesses as well as prominent politicians.

But Concepcion clarified that the Forbes Park assistance would not necessarily be financial.

"We won't necessarily be giving them money," he stressed. "We will talk and ask them what they need and we will work together to attain it."

He said he is willing to help the leaders of other barangays in talking with other government officials as well as in formulating projects or policies that will address their problems.

"We want to show other barangays that if they have a problem, they can solve it themselves (and not have to leave it up to higher city officials)," he said.

One of the projects that Concepcion is studying is the teaming up with other barangays in managing the Tripa de Gallina creek that runs through Makati, Mandaluyong, Pasay and Manila.

He said they are studying the possibility of deputizing the barangays to take care of the creek. But he pointed out that the cost of the project would have to be taken into consideration.

P68M museum will 'break down walls in our minds'

By Jerome Aning

A MUSEUM that will "break down the walls in our minds that says we can't do something we want."

This would be the main reason for being of the P67.9-million light and sound museum in Intramuros whose groundbreaking rite took place Tuesday afternoon, led by Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon.

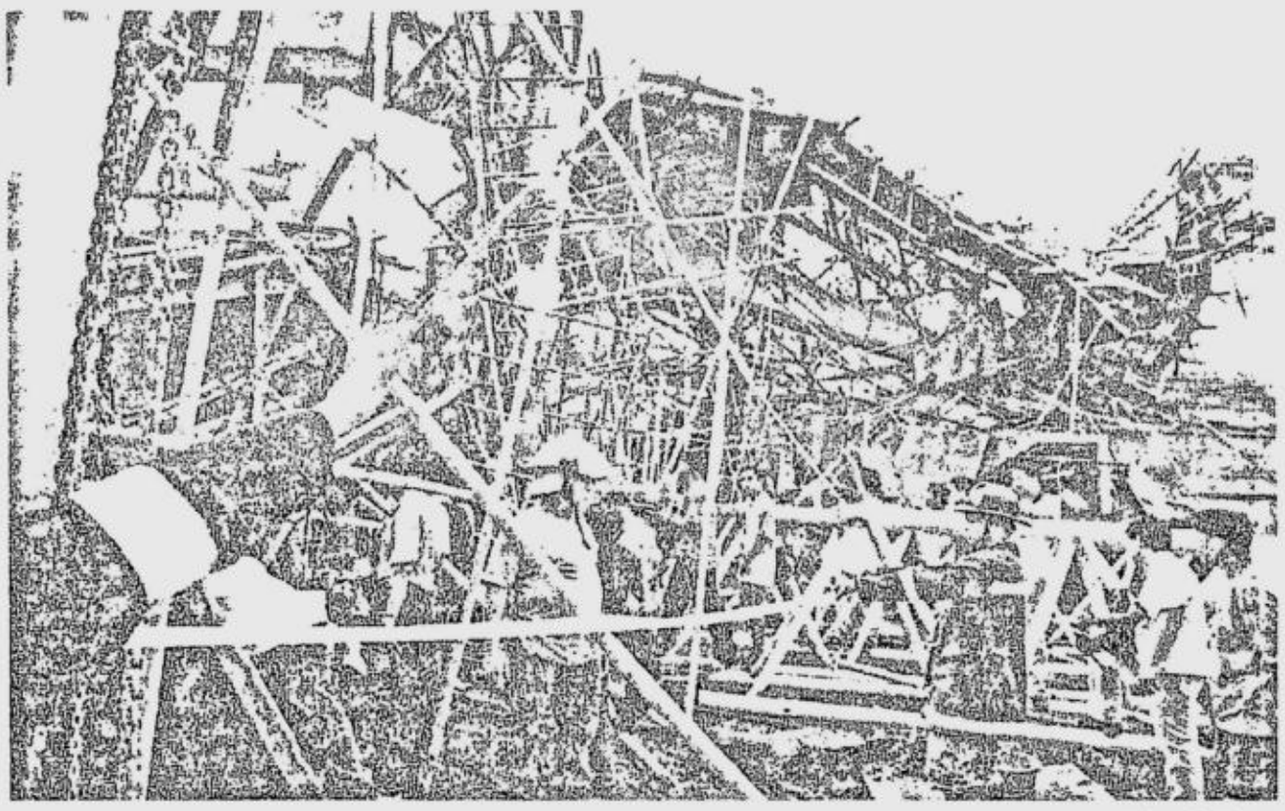
The museum will feature the story of the Filipinos' quest for independence from colonial Spain and for nationhood in the context of Intramuros as the bastion of Spanish colonial rule in the Philippines.

"Let us break the walls in our minds that hinder us from achieving and from becoming horizon-chasers like Rizal," Gordon said.

He led the lowering of a time capsule on the future museum, to be located in what used to be a soldiers' barracks at the corner of Sta. Lucia and Victoria streets.

The site was donated to the DOT by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Spanish Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja and National Historical Institute chair Fr. Ambeth Ocampo also witnessed the groundbreaking.



AFTER the collapse, the San Beda gym looks like a crumpled matchbox. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

A haven . . . From p. A23

structions, eats in a normal way and is toilet-trained.

When A. grew up, he found romance in the foundation, married, had a child and is now a seaman. E. was sent to Belgium and received additional care. And M. was flown to Paris, operated on, and recuperated in the home of Filipino foster parents near Lille, France.

"The first thing is to give love to the children," says Dominique Lemay, the French president of the foundation. "We take care of them. Any kind of problem we take care of."

Virlanie recently celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Virlanie beneficiaries have included abused children, difficult children, neglected pregnant teenagers, and mentally retarted children. There are outreach programs for prison inmates and the landless urban poor in Payatas, Quezon City.

The foundation has 12 homes all over the metropolis, as well as in Laguna and Batangas. The range of its services is impressive, including medical, psychological, educational, skills-training, and even job placement and talent development.

"The medical, emotional, psychological and spiritual needs of the child are attended to," says Ramonesa Ricardo, foundation vice president.

Backing up Lemay is a staff of dedicated and well-trained professionals and volunteers, long-term as well as short-term, who come from the Philippines and all over the world. Financial assistance from partner agencies and concerned individuals from France and other countries keep the non-government organization going.

VIRLANIE'S wards.

Because of the success of the foundation, Lemay--*Kuya* (Big Brother) Dominique to the children--has been able to form Verlanie chapters in France, in Quebec, Canada, in Belgium, the US and the Netherlands.

Formerly with Caritas Paris, Lemay in the late 1980s was asked by a French NGO to do a study on Filipino streetchildren. He came here and then set up a house for children, Masigla, near De La Salle University on Taft Avenue, Manila. This eventually gave way to Virlanie in 1992.

"I;ve been here 14 years *na*," says the kind-hearted Lemay.

"I love this coutnry. Of course I miss my country, but when I am in France, I miss the Philippines more.

"When I return here, I don't feel I'm abroad. Every time I come back, I learn something more about the Filipinos."

(Virlanie Foundation is at 1 Mola corner Sunrise, La Paz Village,Makati City; 896-2289)

San Beda collapse kills 3 From p. A23

before he was rescued.

Had she arrived on time, President Macapagal-Arroyo would have seen rescue workers pull out Garcia from under the rubble in San Beda College on Mendiola Street, near Malacañang.

Garcia was dug out before Ms Macapagal arrived.

The President proceeded to the PGH where she went directly to the X-ray room where Garcia was being examined.

Ms Macapagal also talked to Garcia's mother and gave her P10,000 for his medical needs.

According to a Malacañang statement, rescuers from the Bureau of Fire Protection had to dig through fresh cement to get to Garcia.

Garcia was given an oxygen mask and a dextrose solution while rescuers worked to free him. Water was sprayed on his lower body to prevent the cement from drying up on his legs.

While the rescue operation was going on, presidential photographers and security men arrived at the scene.

SPO1 Tuazon said the victims, who belonged to the Legacy Construction Corp. and Fertana Philippines Inc., were working overtime to finish the 5-month-old construction job on the hexagon-shaped grandstand and gymnasium, when the accident occurred at 4:30 a.m.

Larry Gadia, 30, project engineer and part owner of the construction firm, said the workers were pumping cement on a horizontal beam about 20 meters long when a pump hose, which was connected to a boom crane, snagged the edge of the beam and causing the scaffolding to topple over.

The dead workers had massive head and bone injuries. The elder Garcia hit his head on a steel bar when he jumped to safety, while his brother's arm was fractured.

The firemen had to commandeer a backhoe from the Hanjin firm, which is building the nearby Light Rail Transit 2, to remove the rubble and rescue the trapped worker.

Jojo Garcia was on top of the scaffolding when the accident happened.

"I couldn't do anything while my brother and our friends screamed for help below," he told reporters. "It was horrible."

Garcia said he managed to grab hold of a steel bar which he used to climb down.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza visited the site and ordered the city's engineering office to look into the accident.

He later received P300,000 from the President. The amount would be distributed among the victims.

Manila policemen are set to question Gadia, his relative and project manager Edmundo Gadia, and Rodelo Roduta, another engineer, who were supervising the construction.

Kris: I'll never fight back . . .

From p. A23

back when Alma "started cursing and threatening her," the mayor told the Inquirer in a phone interview Friday night.

The mayor explained that he was confined overnight at the Asian Hospital where he underwent a medical procedure to determine the condition of his heart. Kris was with him when his wife Alma arrived with Vittorio Joey, 6, one of their children, he said.

Also visiting him in the hospital at the time were his sister Via Hoffman and Kris' friend singer Zsa Zsa Padilla.

He said he was in a room where an angiogram was being done on him when his estranged wife and their son came. He said he learned of Alma's "cursing and threatening" only Friday night after the angiogram, when Kris and his sister recounted it to him.

Kris, who has admitted to having an affair with the mayor, told the Inquirer that Alma cursed her several times but "didn't lay a finger on me."

She said that even if Alma tried to hit her, "I'd never retaliate."

He said Kris even offered coffee to Moreno.

"But during the entire time (Alma) was there, she never asked about how Joey was doing," Kris said.

"It's not fair to Kris and her friend Zsa Zsa, who were merely around to wish me good health," the mayor said.

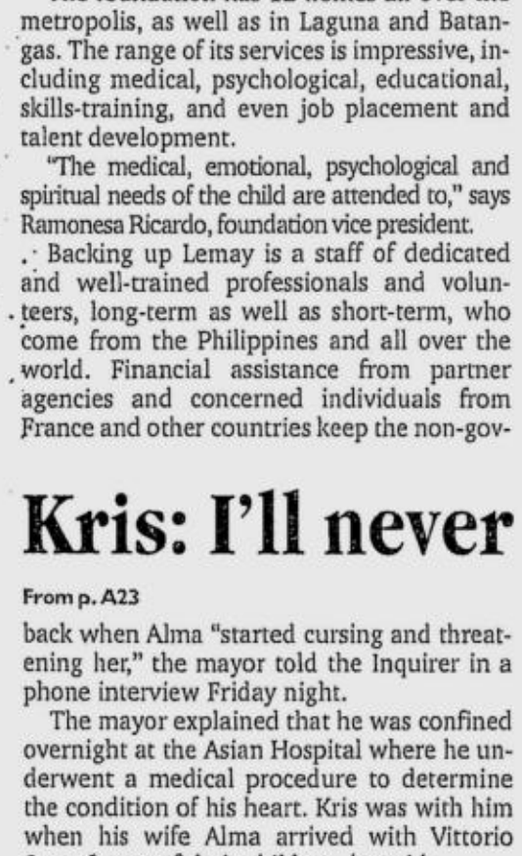
The mayor said his cardiologist, Dr. Jorge Garcia, saw no sign of any heart problem and permitted him to check out of the hospital at 9 p. m. Friday.

"My doctor said I have the heart of a baby," the mayor said.

Early this year, he was rushed to a hospital in Cebu City after suffering severe chest pain while playing golf.

He was supposed to undergo an angiogram in Cebu but he decided to have it done in Manila, he said.

ANSWER ON SUNDAY CROSSWORD



HELPING HAND
A grand reunion of overseas Filipino workers is joined by (from left) Senators Edgardo Angara and Loren Legarda and the National Labor Relations Commission's Roy Señeres, who assisted a number of Filipino workers, including domestic helper Sarah Balabagan, when he was still the Philippine ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

JESS TUSON

Ex-dad dies

FORMER Manila city councilor Chika Go, 47, was ambushed and killed by a lone gunman on Reina Regente Street in Binondo yesterday afternoon.

Go, a businessman and resident of Regente Tower, was on his way home after visiting his mother at the Chinese General Hospital in Sta. Cruz, Manila, when the gunman approached his Mitsubishi Pajero, which was stuck in traffic, and shot him five times at 2:15 p.m., Go's driver Abel Polancos told police.

Polancos, 30, said the gunman was picked up by a man on a motorcycle.*Jerome Aning*

Jehovah convention

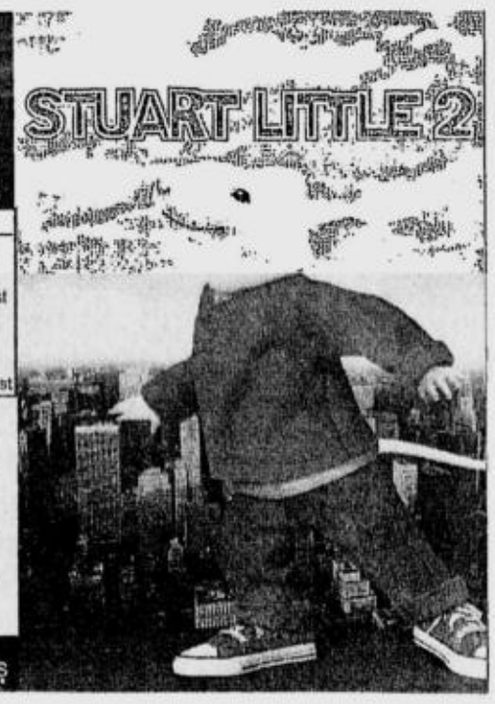
JEHOVAH'S Witnesses from Manila Circuit No. 6 are holding a two-day convention until today, with the theme "Fear God and Give Him Glory."

The convention is being held at the assembly hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Barangay Kaligayahan, Novaliches, Quezon City. The public is invited to listen to spiritually upbuilding discourses.

Manila Circuit No. 6 is composed of congregations in the cities of Mandaluyong and Pasig and in Cainta, Rizal.

MEET & GREET HOLLYWOOD'S LOVABLE MOUSE AT ALABANG TOWN CENTER

DATE	TIME	VENUE	ACTIVITY
August 3	11:30am-12noon 4:00pm-4:30pm 5:30pm-6:00pm 7:00pm-7:30pm	Alabang Activity Center	Character& Stuart Little 2 Drawing/ Coloring Contest
August 11	11:30am-12noon 4:00pm-4:30pm 5:30pm-6:00pm 7:00pm-7:30pm	Alabang Town Center Cinemas	Character& Stuart Little 2 Drawing/ Coloring Contest



JOIN THE DRAWING CONTEST ON AUGUST 3-11.
SEE FLYERS OR CALL 7527872 FOR MORE DETAILS

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METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
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NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
2 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
3 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 GOLD (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	ALL ABOUT A BOY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SORORITY BOYS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
8	ANG GALING MO BABES
9	URAGON
10	MEGIDDO

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana
CINEMA
TEL. 551 63 87

1	URAGON
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	SAGAD

stармall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	URAGON
2	GALING MO BABES
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
5	SAGAD

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	SAGAD
2	PAKI SABI NA LANG
3	GALING MO BABES
4	URAGON
5	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6	WINDTALKERS
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA
THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	ALL ABOUT BOYS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	PAKI SABI NA LANG
2	SUM OF ALL FEARS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	SAGAD
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	
A	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	URAGON
2	
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	
3	
4	URAGON
5	ALL ABOUT A BOYS
6	GALING MO BABES
7 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
8 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
9 (DOLBY)	KILLING MO SOFTLY

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PAKI SABI NA LANG
2	GALING MO BABES
3	URAGON
4 (SDDS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	SAGAD
6 (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
7 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
8	MEN IN BLACK 2
9	HIGH EXPLOSIVE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	
2	
3	
4	GALING MO BABES
5 (SDDS)	URAGON
6	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
7 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
8	SAGAD

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	GALING MO BABES
2	SAGAD
3 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	URAGON
5 (SDDS)	WINDTALKERS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	URAGON

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	URAGON

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	GALING MO BABES SUGAT

Mandaluyong
MARKETPLACE
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	URAGON
2	GALING MO BABES
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	GALING MO BABES
3	PAKI SABI NA LANG
4	URAGON
5	SAGAD

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	
2	

Berma
TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 216

1	URAGON
2	SAGAD

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	40 URAGON
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	URAGON
2 (DTS)	GALING MO BABES
3 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	ALL ABOUT A BOY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	URAGON
2 (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
3 (DTS)	ALL ABOUT A BOY
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	GALING MO BABES
2	PAKI SABI NA LANG
3	MEGGIDO
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	PAKI SABI NA LANG
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DOLBY)	MEGGIDO
4 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
2	SAGAD
3	URAGON
4 (DTS)	GALING MO BABES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DTS)	ALL ABOUT A BOY
4	URAGON
5	DOG SOLDIER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	URAGON
3	GALING MO BABES

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	GALING MO BABES
2	URAGON
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MEGIDDO
2	URAGON
3	PAKI SABI NA LANG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	GALING MO BABES
3	WINDTALKERS
4	PAKI SABI NA LANG

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY DI)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	PAKI SABI NA LANG
3 (DTS)	SORORITY BOYS
4	URAGON

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING
5:00 PM , 7:30PM, 10:00 PM
about a boy

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	KILLING ME SOFTLY
2	ANG GALING-GALING MO
3	WINDTALKERS
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	8 LEGGED FREAKS
6	D' URAGONS
7	SAGAD
8	ABOUT A BOY

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161418

1	WINDTALKERS
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	D' URAGONS
6	SAGAD
7	STUART LITTLE 2
8	SORORITY BOYS
9	ANG GALING-GALING MO
10	PAKISABI NA LANG...

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	ABOUT A BOY
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG...
4	WINDTALKERS
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	D' URAGONS
7	8 LEGGED FREAKS
8	ANG GALING-GALING MO
9	SORORITY BOYS
10	SAGAD
11	MEN IN BLACK 2
12	MEGIDDO

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	8 LEGGED FREAKS
3	MEGIDDO
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	WINDTALKERS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	SAGAD
9	D' URAGONS
10	MEN IN BLACK 2
11	PAKISABI NA LANG...
12	ANG GALING-GALING MO

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	MEGIDDO
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	MEN IN BLACK 2
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	8 LEGGED FREAKS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	PAKISABI NA LANG...
9	D' URAGONS
10	WINDTALKERS
11	ANG GALING-GALING MO
12	SAGAD

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	MEGIDDO
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	ANG GALING-GALING MO
4	D' URAGONS
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	KILLING ME SOFTLY
7	8 LEGGED FREAKS
8	WINDTALKERS

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	KILLING ME SOFTLY
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	PAKISABI NA LANG...
7	D' URAGONS
8	WINDTALKERS
9	ANG GALING-GALING MO
10	SAGAD

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	PRIVATE FUNCTION
2	WINDTALKERS
3	SORORITY BOYS
4	DOG SOLDIERS
5	D' URAGONS
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	ANG GALING-GALING MO
8	8 LEGGED FREAKS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
2	CLOSED
3	D' URAGONS
4	8 LEGGED FREAKS
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	BIG FAT LIAR
7	CLOSED
8	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	ANG GALING-GALING MO
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	KILING ME SOFTLY
6	D' URAGONS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	WINDTALKERS
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	D' URAGONS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
2	ABOUT A BOY
3	PAKISABI NA LANG...
4	D' URAGONS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	WINDTALKERS
4	D' URAGONS
5	DOG SOLDIERS
6	MEGIDDO

SM BICUTAN

1	
2	SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
3	
4	

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
2	
3	
4	

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
6380781-85 loc 120

ALL ABOUT A BOY
11:50 FS, 12:20 MF, 2:35, 4:50, 7:05
9:20, 11:00 LFS, 11:30 LMF, 1:10 End

KILLING ME SOFTLY
10:00 FS, 10:10 MF, 12:20, 2:35, 4:50 7:05,
9:20, 11:00 LFS, 11:30 LMF, 1:10 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
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MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls
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Galleria
632-9115-16
633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX	ABOUT A BOY
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	MEGIDDO
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	WINDTALKERS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	URAGONS
9	GALING MO BABES
10	STUART LITTLE 2

Ermita
536-7809-12

1	WINDTALKERS
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	URAGONS
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	GALING MO BABES
6	ABOUT A BOY
7	KILLING ME SOFTLY

Metro East - Marcos Hwy
682-8193 / 8280

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	ABOUT A BOY
4	URAGONS
5	WINDTALKERS
6	GALING MO BABES
7	
8	

Novaliches
935-3229 30

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6	GALING MO BABES
7	URAGONS
8	

Imus
471-8188 / 875-3838

1	WINDTALKERS
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	GALING MO BABES
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	URAGONS

Bacolod
441-0453 / 0459

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	PAKI SABI NA LANG
4	WINDTALKERS
5	WALK TO REMEMBER
6	BIG FAT LIAR

Iloilo
336-8077 - 78

1	WINDTALKERS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	BIG FAT LIAR
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	URAGONS
6	ALL ABOUT BENJAMINS

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp.
875-1977
961 5318 / 5270

1	URAGONS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	GALING MO BABES
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	WINDTALKERS

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.

Late Night Screening
heather graham joseph fiennes
killing me softly
on
August 9 -10, 2002 / Friday & Saturday - 11pm. @
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

how-2-reach-us:
email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536-7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

FROM THE MAKERS OF 'BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY'
AND THE PRODUCERS OF 'MEET THE PARENTS'

"GRANT IS BRILLIANT...HUGELY ENTERTAINING."
PAUL ROSS - NEWS OF THE WORLD

"THE COMEDY OF THE YEAR. HILARIOUS."
JUSTIN KEGG - CAPITAL FM

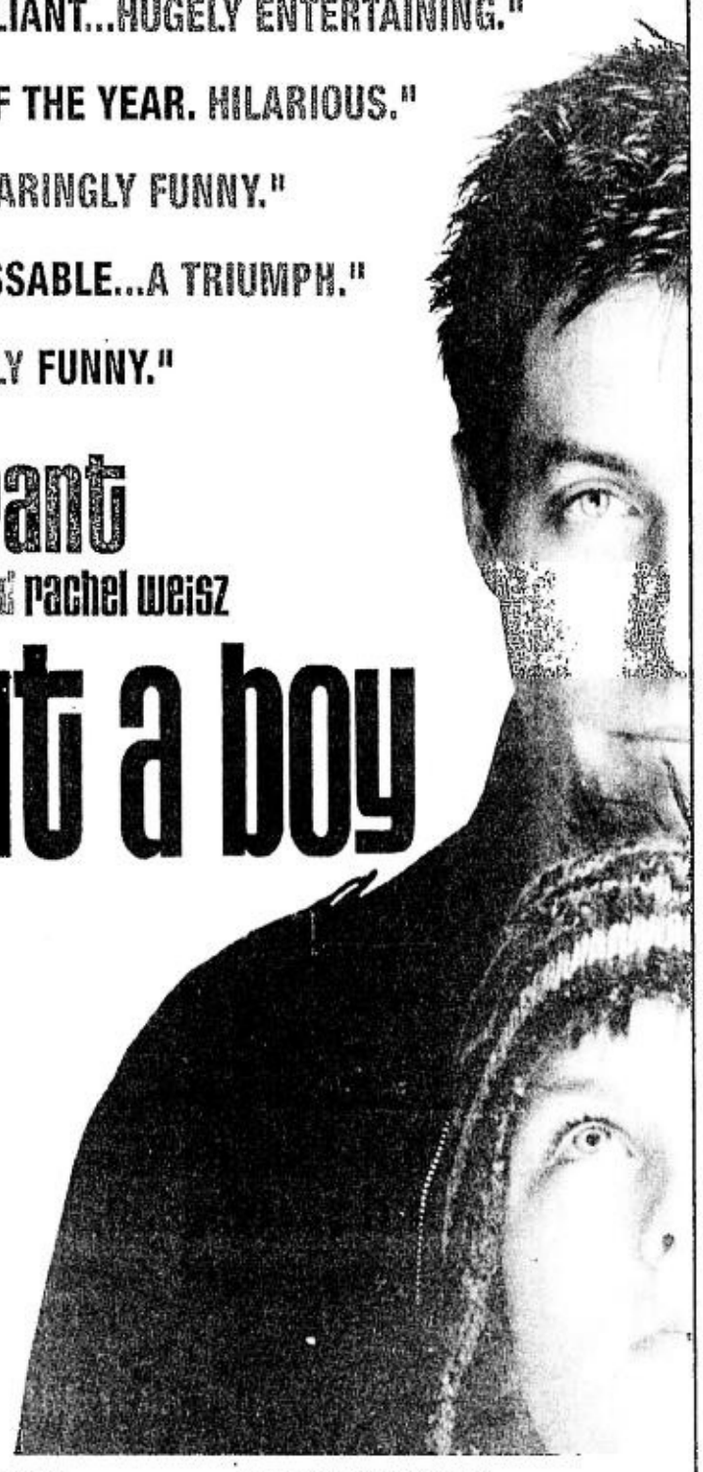
"BRILLIANT...ROARINGLY FUNNY."
MARK ECCLESTON - GLAMOUR

"TOTALLY UNMISSABLE...A TRIUMPH."
CARELLA FARRINGTON - HARPERS & QUEEN

"EXCRUCIATINGLY FUNNY."
JAMES WHITE - TOTAL FILM

hugh grant
toni collette and rachel weisz
about a boy

BASED ON THE
BESTSELLING BOOK
BY NICK HORNBY



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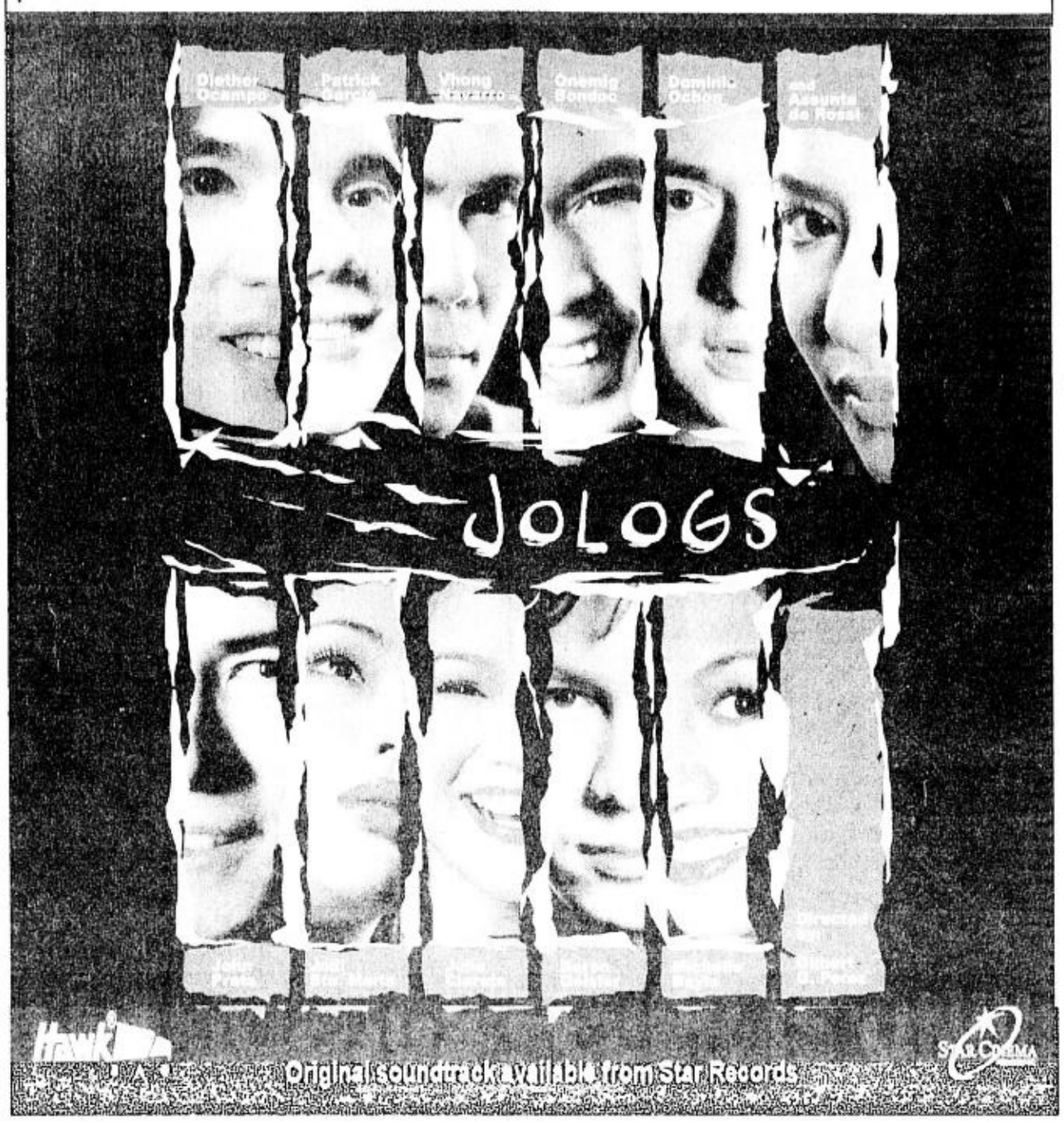
THE JOLOGS FEVER IS ON!!!



NOW SHOWING AT YOUR
FAVORITE THEATHERS !

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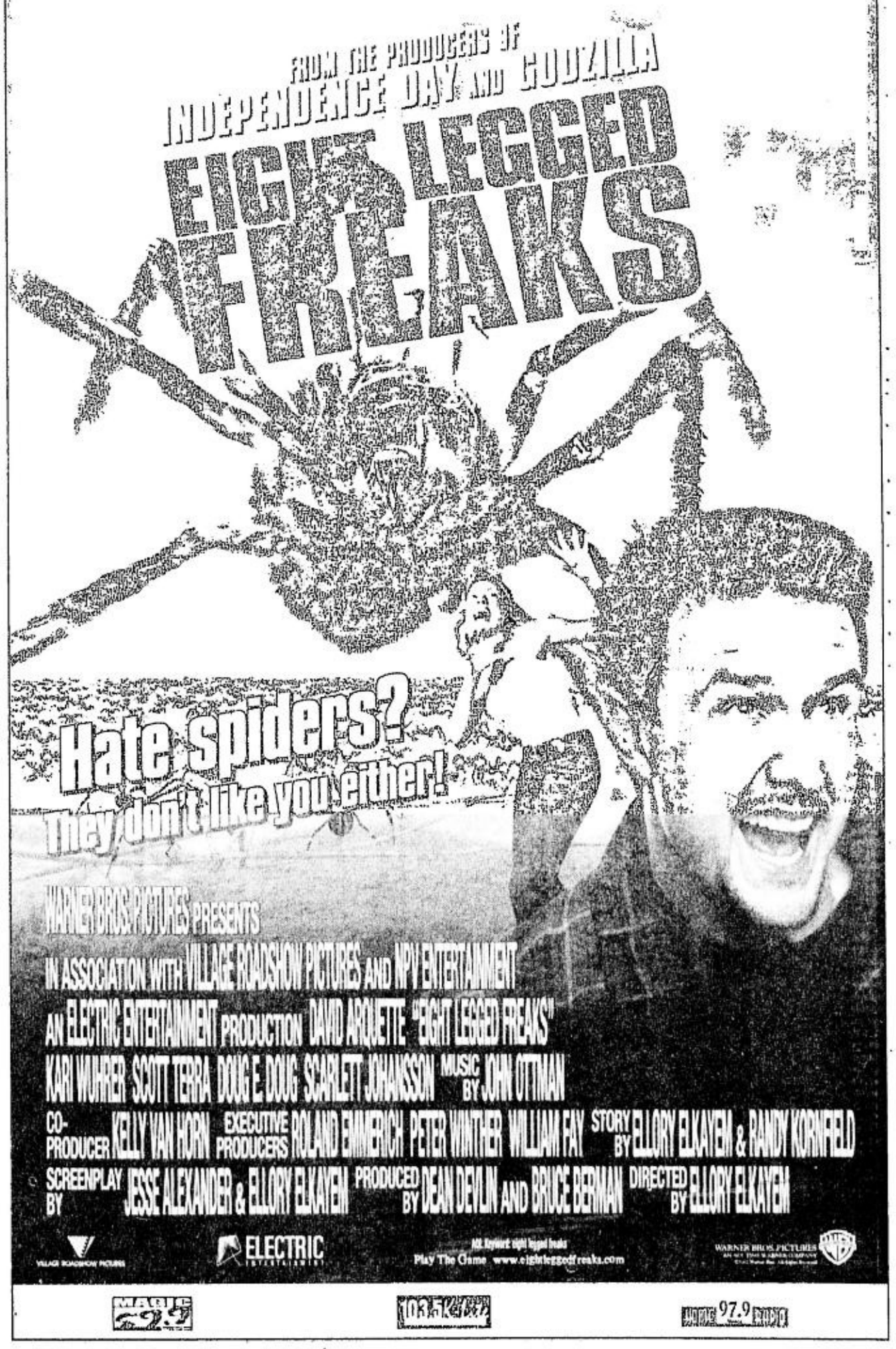
FROM THE PRODUCERS OF
INDEPENDENCE DAY AND GODZILLA
EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

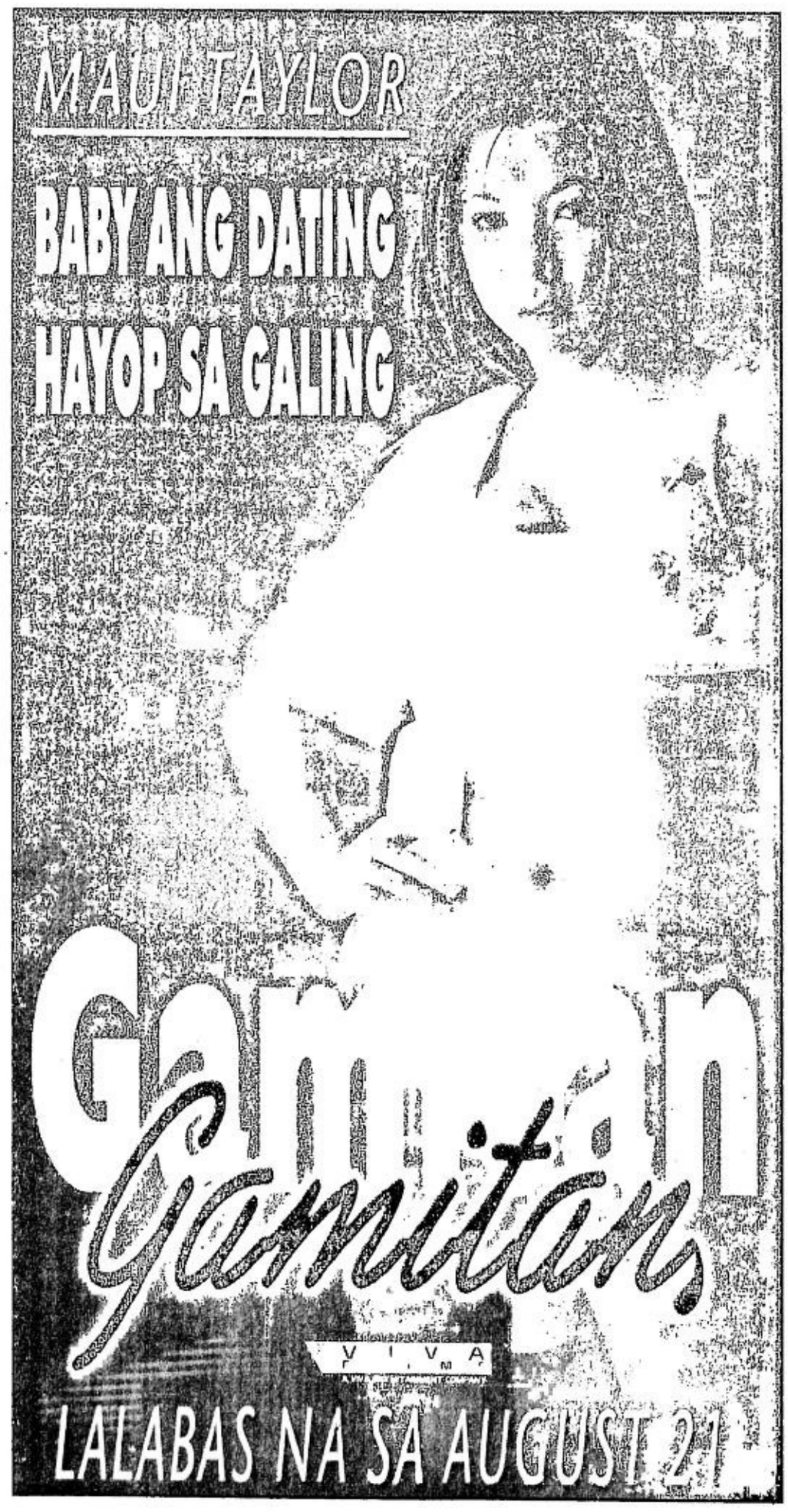


Hate spiders?
They don't like you either!

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES AND NPV ENTERTAINMENT
AN ELECTRIC ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION DAVID ARQUETTE "EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS"
KARI WUHRER SCOTT TERRA DOUG E. DOUG SCARLETT JOHANSSON MUSIC BY JOHN OTTMAN
CO-PRODUCER KELLY VAN HORN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ROLAND EMMERICH PETER WINTHER WILLIAM FAY STORY BY ELLORY ELKAYEM & RANDY KORNFIELD
SCREENPLAY BY JESSE ALEXANDER & ELLORY ELKAYEM PRODUCED BY DEAN DEVLIN AND BRUCE BERMAN DIRECTED BY ELLORY ELKAYEM
VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES
ELECTRIC ENTERTAINMENT
All Keyword: eight legged freaks
Play The Game www.eightleggedfreaks.com
WARNER BROS. PICTURES
MAGIC 89.9
101.9 KEY FM
WHITE 97.9 RADIO

MAUI TAYLOR

BABY ANG DATING
HAYOP SA GALING



Ganito

VIVA FILMS

LALABAS NA SA AUGUST 21

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Impressively scientific approach to criminal investigation

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THERE are many shows about crime-busters on the tube, but the AXN channel's "CSI (Crime Scene Investigation)" stands out with its impressively scientific approach to solving the most mystifying of criminal cases.

Last Sunday (at 9 p.m.), the show focused on two murder cases that appeared to be "impossible" to crack. But, with their expertise and state-of-the-art equipment, the CSI team was able to solve the complex and confounding murders.

The first involved a murder that already had an identified killer. Trouble was, one of the investigators had a hunch that the culprit had been framed. By carefully retrieving and analyzing minute traces of blood and DNA at the scene of the crime, she was able to prove that the "guilty" person *didn't* commit the murder.

Even more impressively, she proved that the "evidence" had been planted by her very own mentor. She could have looked the other way in deference to her huge respect for him, but professional ethics required her to charge him with fudging the evidence. No, he wasn't the killer, either, but he could still get a stiff jail term.

This is what fascinates viewers about "CSI," the way it takes full advantage of the many advances in criminal investigation that have happened just in the last few years. Within new refinements in DNA detection and analysis, practically every murder can be found out, or at least proven to have been present at the scene of the crime, because our bodies shed fluids, hair follicles and epidermal flakes without our knowing it, and these can be traced back to us.

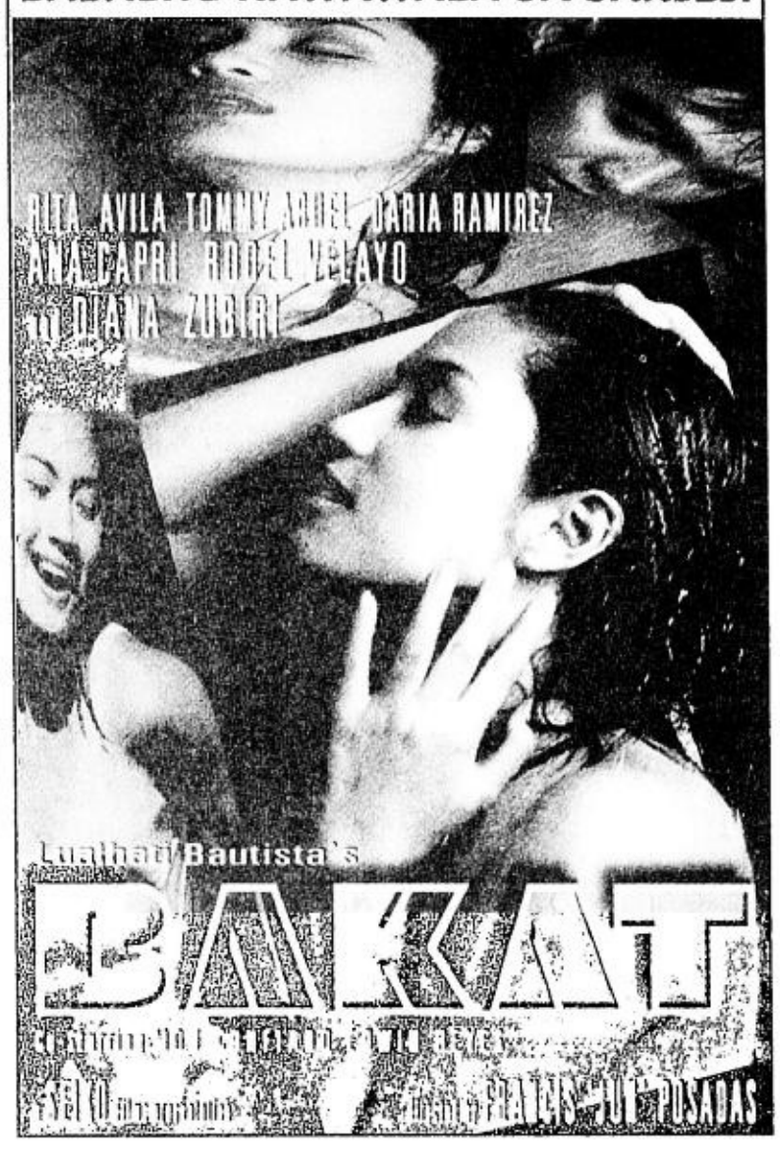
The second case was even more mysti-

IMPRESSIVELY/ p. A29

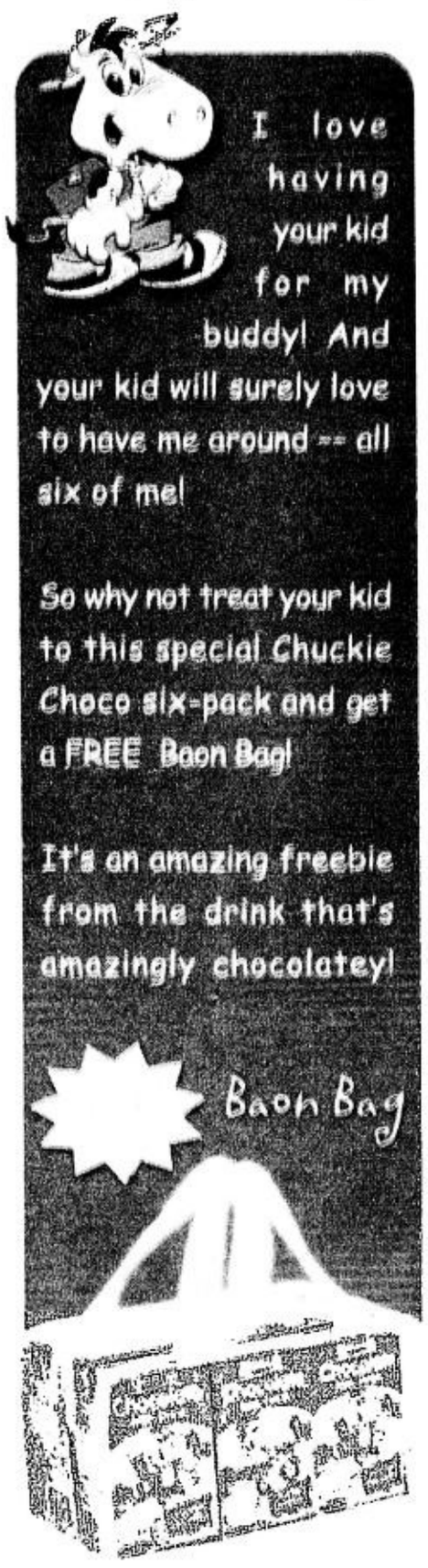
More Fun, More Comedy for the Entire Family
2nd 'BIG ADVENTURE' WEEK!
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

AT LAST, LALABAS NA !!!
MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictly for Adults Only
ANG KASAYSAYAN NG ISANG BABAENG NAWAWALA SA SARILI!



SIX OF ME FOR MY BUDDY!



11

CINEMA 1

11:00 am CITY OF SADNESS (Taiwan, 158 mins) Hsiao Hsien Hou
2:00 pm LAGAAN (India, 222 mins) Ashutosh Gowariker
6.00 pm MANITO (USA, 77 mins) Eric Eason
8:00 pm UNA CASA CON VISTA AL MAR (Venezuela, 93 mins)
additional screening
9.35 pm RING 0 (Japan, 98 mins) Norio Tsuruta
11:00 pm CENTRAL STATION (Brazil, 106 mins) Walter Salles

CINEMA 2

11:00 am HOLLYWOOD HONG KONG (Hong Kong, 109 mins) Fruit Chan
2:00 pm FOREVER FEVER (Singapore, 95 mins) Glen Goei
5:00 pm HARMFUL INSECT (Japan, 92 mins) Akihiko Shiota
8:00 pm PEONY PAVILION (Hong Kong, 120 mins) Yonfan
additional screening
9:15 pm Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN (Mexico 105 mins) Alfonso Cuaron
11:00 pm KIKUJIRU (Japan, 116 mins) Takeshi Kitano

CINEMA 1

11:00 am FRANCISCA (Mexico, 85 Mins) Eva Lopez-Sanchez
2:00 pm GEGE (Hong Kong, 90 mins) Yan Yan Mak
5:00 pm 8 WOMEN (France) Francois Ozon
8:00 pm ATANARJUAT - RUNNER (Canada, 172 mins) Zacharias Kunuk
00 pm TOPLESS ..OMEN TAL ABOUT THEIR LIVES (New Zealand, 89 mins) Harry Sinclair

CINEMA 2

1:00 am RING (Japan, 96 mins) Hideo Nakata
2:00 pm WATERBOYS (Japan, 90 mins) Shinobu Yaguchi
5.00 pm THE MAN WHO WASNT THERE (USA, 116 mins) Joel Coen
8:00 pm ADDRESS UNKNOWN (Korea, 117 mins) additional screening
10:00 pm MANITO (USA, 77 mins) Eric Eason
11:00 pm FAST FOOD FAST WOMEN (Israel, 95 mins) Amos Kollek

CINEMA 1

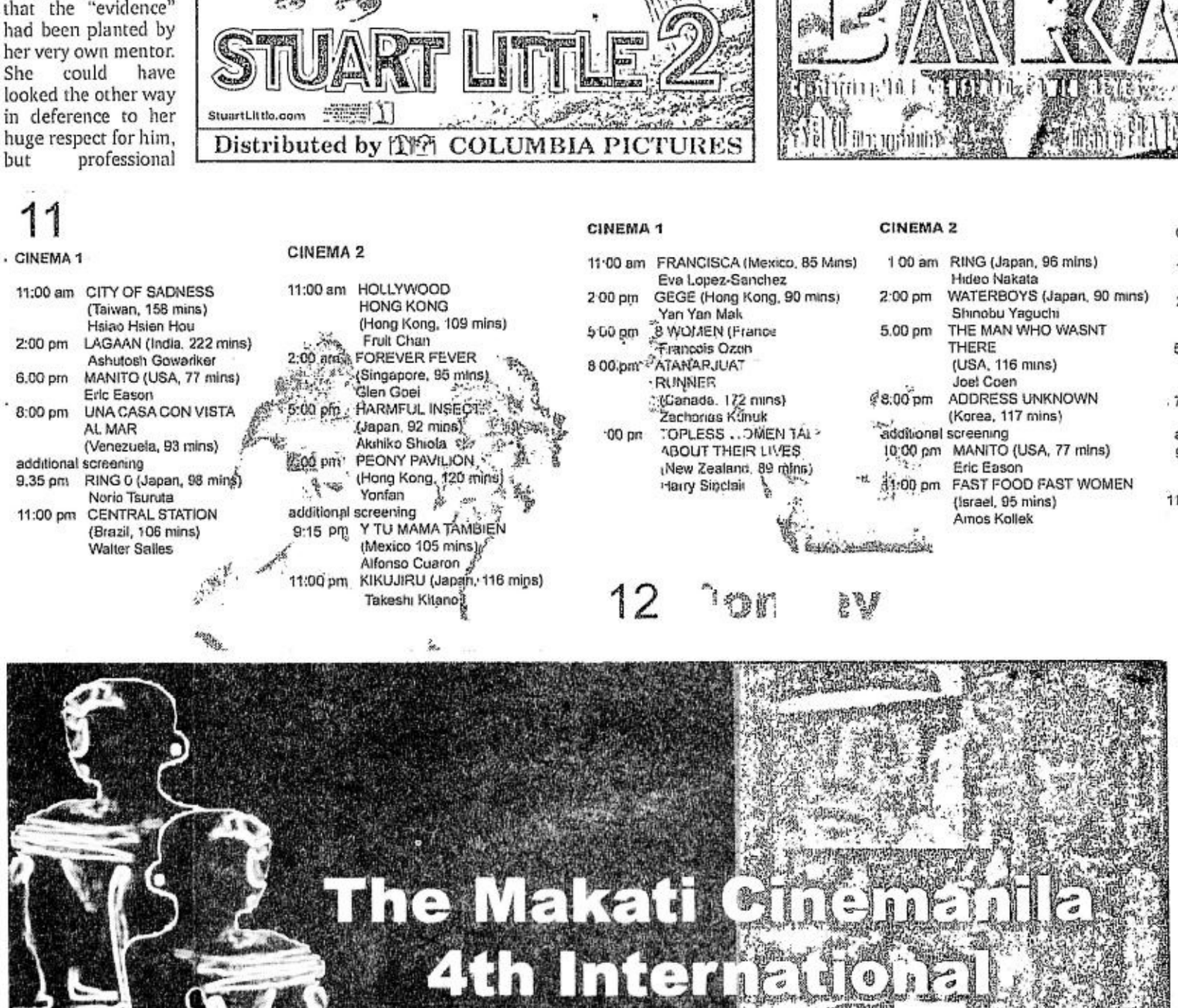
11.00 am HOTEL (UK/ Italy 111 mins) Mike Figgis
2.00 pm WATER DROPS ON BURNING ROCKS (France) Francois Ozon
5:00 pm NO MAN'S LAND (Bosnia/Belgium 98 mins) Danis Danovic
7:00 pm HANA-BI (Japan, 103 mins) Takeshi Kitano
additional screening
9:00 pm I NOT STUPID (Singapore, 120 mins) Jack Neo
11:00 pm QUITTING (China, 112 mins) Zhang Yang

CINEMA 2

11:00 am IN THE COUNTRY WHERE NOTHING HAPPENS (Mexico, 98 mins) Maria del Carmen de Lara
2:00 pm CENTRAL STATION (Brazil 106 mins) Walter Salles
5:00 pm THE GIRL FROM PARIS (France, 103 mins) Benoit Mariage
7:00 pm KIKUJIRO (Japan, 116 mins) Takeshi Kitano
additional screening
9.00 pm TAXI PARA TRES (Chile, 90 mins) Orlando Lubbert
11:00 pm RING 2 (Japan, 95 mins) Hideo Nakata

12 Mon

13



14 Wednesday

CINEMA 1

11:00 am LES CLUB DES CHOMEURS (Luxembourg, 97 mins) Andy Bauche
2:00 pm RING 0 (Japan, 98 mins) Norio Tsuruta
5:00 pm HOTEL (UK/Italy 111 mins) Mike Figgis
7:00 pm FRIEND (Kore, 117 mins) Kwak Kyung-Taek
additional screening
9.15 pm FOREVER FEVER (Singapore 95 mins) Glen Goei
11.00 pm ADDRESS UNKNOWN (Korea, 117 mins) Kim Ki-Duk

CINEMA 2

11:00 am ORPHAN OF ANYANG (China, 84 mins) Wang Chao
2:00 pm UNA CASA CON VISTA DEL MAR (Venezuela, 93 mins) Alberto Alvero
5.00 pm ORPHAN OF ANYANG Wang Chao
7:00 pm WATERBOYS (Japan, 90 mins) Shinobu Yaguchi
additional screening
9:00 pm TOPLESS WOMEN TALK ABOUT THEIR LIVES (New Zealand, 89 mins) Harry Sinclair
11:00 pm WEEKEND PLOT

15

CINEMA 1

12:00 pm WEEKEND PLOT
2:00 pm WATERBOYS (Japan, 90 mins) Shinobu Yaguchi
5:00 pm ATANARJUAT, THE FAST RUNNER (Canada, 172 mins) Zacharias Kunuk
8:00 pm LAGAAN (India, 222 mins) Ashutosh Gowariker (LAGAAN cont'd)

CINEMA 2

11:00 am BATANG WEST SIDE (Philippines, 300 mins) Lav Diaz
5:00 pm RING 2 (Japan, 95 mins) Hideo Nakata
8:00 pm Exclusive Philippine Premiere IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE (Hong Kong 150 mins)Wong Kar-wai PhP150, no complimentary tickets will be honored
additional screening
9:40 pm FOLLOWING (UK, 70 mins) Christian Nolan
11:00 pm KIKUJIRO (Japan, 116 mins) Takeshi Kitano

LUNGSOD NG MAKATI 1995 PILIPINAS · AYALA CINEMA · HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA · yeh-yi · INQUIRER · PDN · DHL WORLDWIDE EXPRESS · BOYSEN The No.1 PAINT · NEXTEL · NCCA

Sexy 'Mummy' villainess returns in 'Eruption'

PATRICIA Velasquez first ignited the TV screen when she showed her physical attributes in the 1994 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue video.

Then she played an evil mistress in "The Mummy" and its sequel, "The Mummy Returns," both starring Brendan Fraser.

Now, Velasquez is back in the straight-to-video film, "Eruption," distributed by C-Interactive Digital Entertainment.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS P13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	ABOUT A BOY P13 11:10, 1:20, 3:20, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	STUART LITTLE 2 GP 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30
WINDTALKERS P13 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50	STUART LITTLE 2 GP 11:30, 1:20, 3:10, 5:00, ABOUT A BOY P13 6:50, 9:00	KILLING ME SOFTLY R 18 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

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DOLBY DIGITAL
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CINEMA 1 — WINDTALKERS 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 P13
CINEMA 2 — ABOUT A BOY 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00, P13
All Reserved Seating: P120.00
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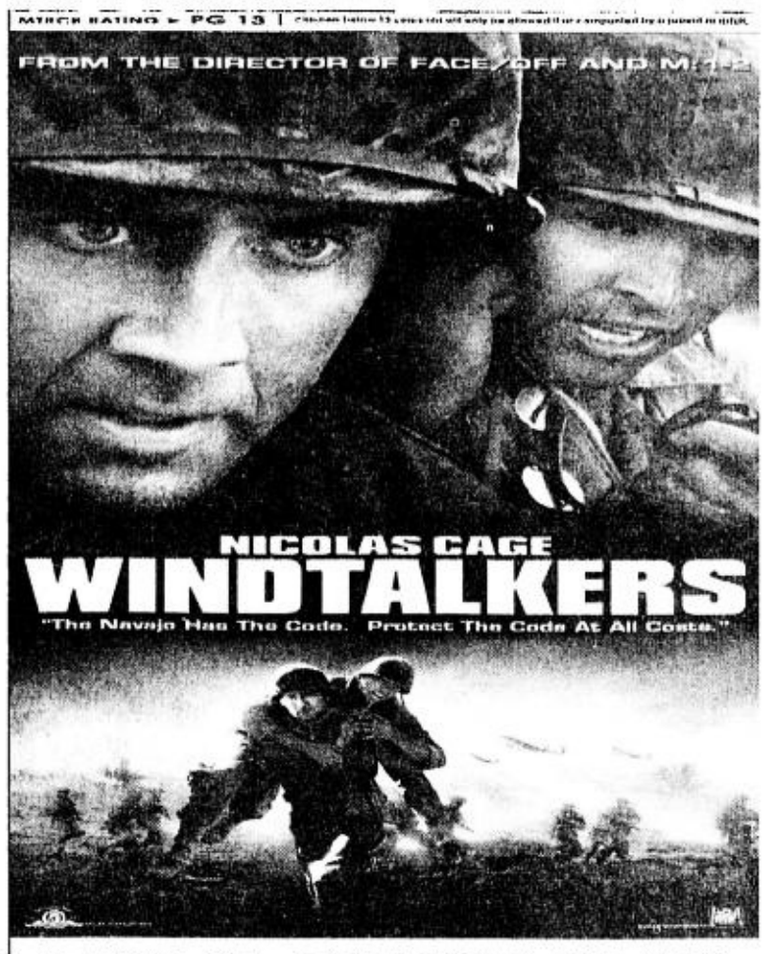
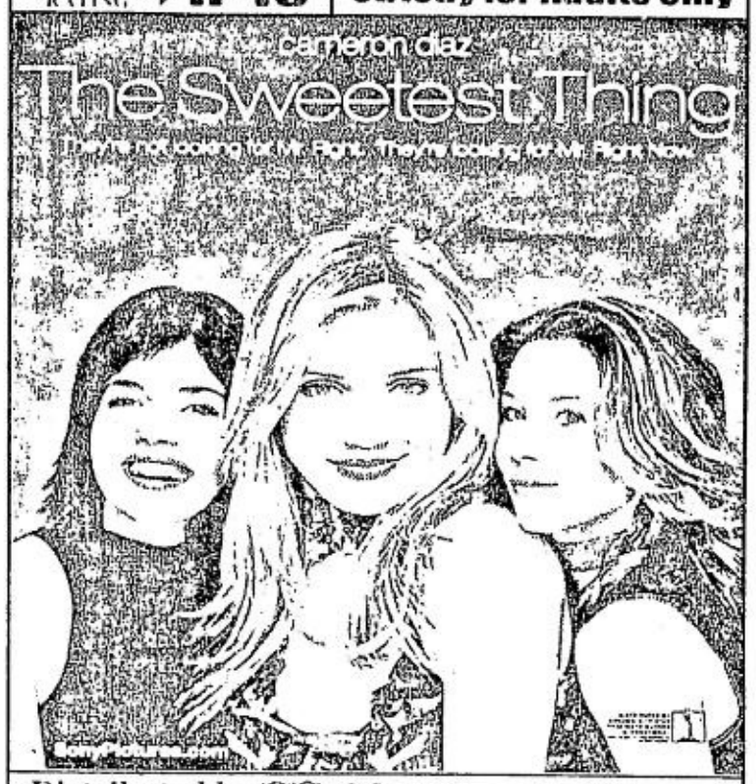


NOW SHOWING

Cameron Diaz at Her Sexiest!
THE SEARCH FOR TRUE LOVE BEGINS AUGUST 14!
MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictly for Adults Only


Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
JOKO DIAZ
ANGELU DE LEON PATRICIA JAVIER
EDDIE GARCIA ANDREW E.

NOW SHOWING

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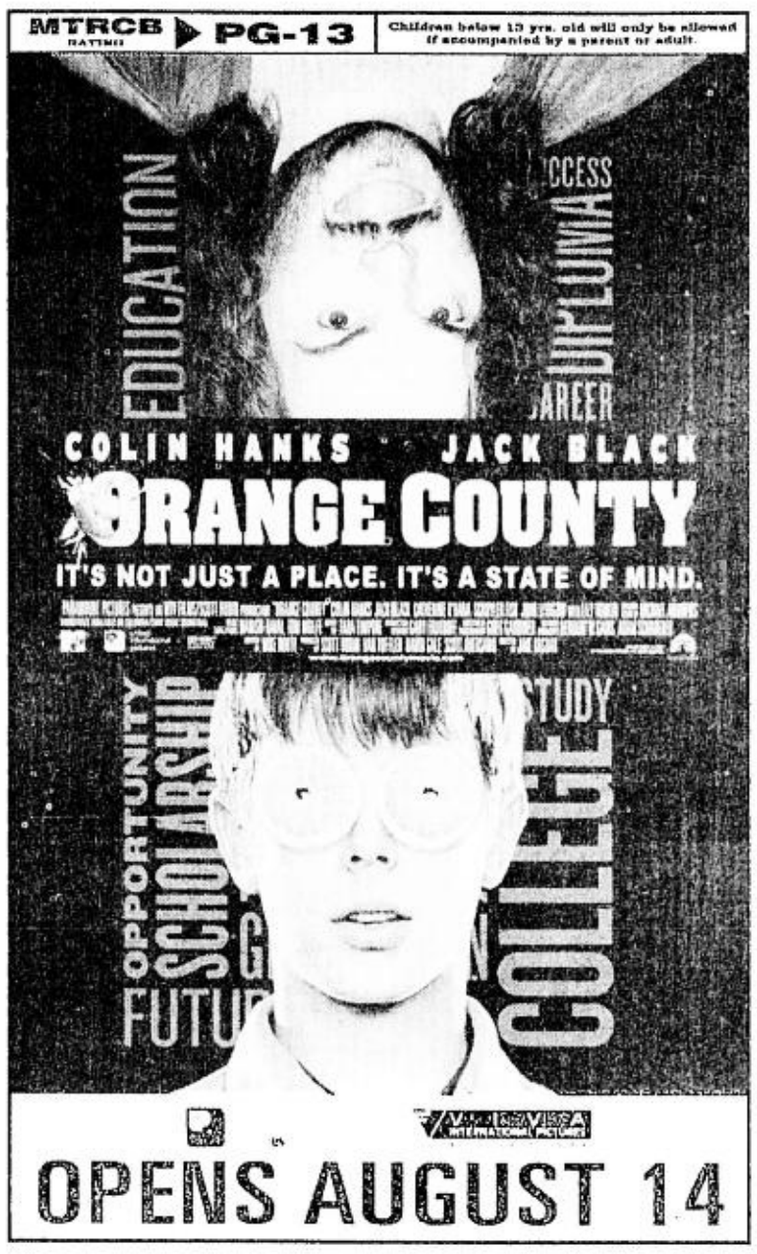
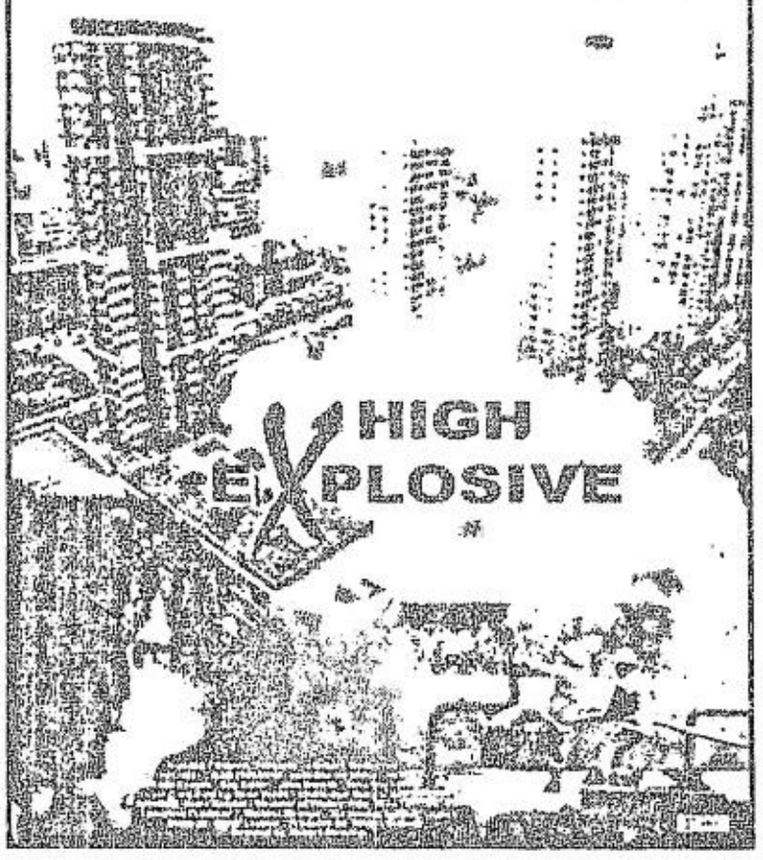


OPENS AUGUST 14

COMING SOON!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
Angora Films Released
Sam Elliott
Anne Ramsay
A Mad Bomber, on the City of the Edge!


OPENS AUGUST 21

Non-Stop Wide-Screen Action!

xXx, a new breed of secret agent

After Schwarzenegger and Stallone, comes a new kind of action hero in a new kind of high-adrenaline action-adventure.

Vin Diesel is Xander Cage, a tattooed, buff-to-the-max underground thrill seeker. He is the ultimate Bad Boy... armed with astonishing physical stamina and the attitude to go with it.

After tangling with the law too many times, he is forced to pay his debt to society, going on a dangerous underground mission in Prague.

Recruited by tough veteran agent (SAMUEL JACKSON) of the National Security Agency, Xander must infiltrate a crime ring led by a brutal ex-Russian Army commander.

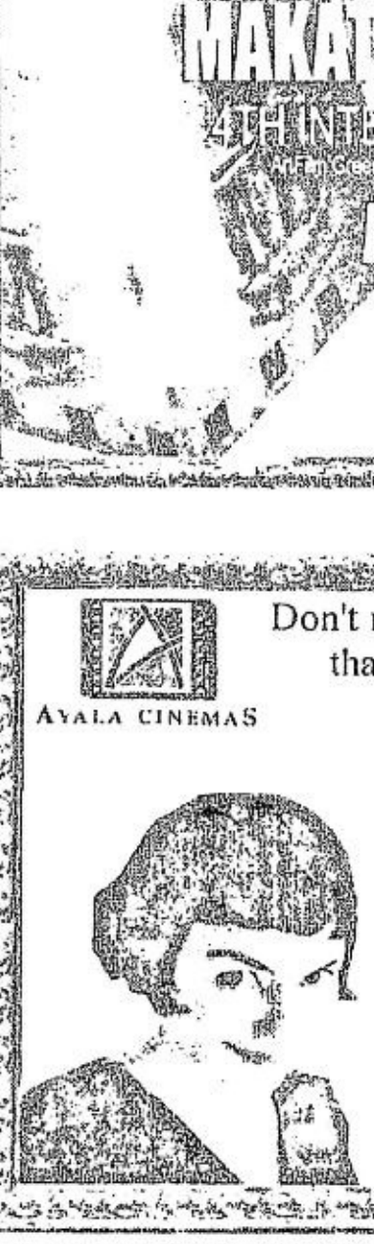
His secret agent code name: xXx (Triple X).

Columbia Pictures presents the biggest slam-bang action picture of the season!

Time Magazine says xXx is "a highly stylized adrenaline rush of a movie." You won't want to miss it.

Only in Cinemas

MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002
4TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
August 8-15, 2002
INQUIRER

AYALA CINEMAS
Don't miss the last few days of the film that captured the hearts of many moviegoers!

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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
For screening schedules, call 729-7777
Solar FILMS INC.

Impressively . . .

From p. A27

fying: Four Buddhist monks were found dead, shot in their "third eye." Who would want to kill such peace-loving and spiritual people? The CSI investigators set out to comb the crime scene for every bit of possible evidence.

They faced a number of dead ends and red herrings planted in their way to confuse them, but they were eventually able to establish that the murders had been committed, not by a hostile community, as earlier suggested, but by the temple's part-time cook, who had been caught by the monks with his hand in their donation box.

The fact that the crime was set in a Buddhist temple gave the show an opportunity to "go exotic" for a change, but the crime-solving techniques were still state-of-the-art.

Local viewers are impressed with the advances in criminal investigation techniques and processes in the West, but rue the fact that our cops are less up-to-date. We hope that our law-enforcement officials will watch "CSI" and secure the same training and equipment for their own personnel as soon as possible. Otherwise, watching the show will continue to be a fascinating but a frustrating experience.

Billboard US Countdown

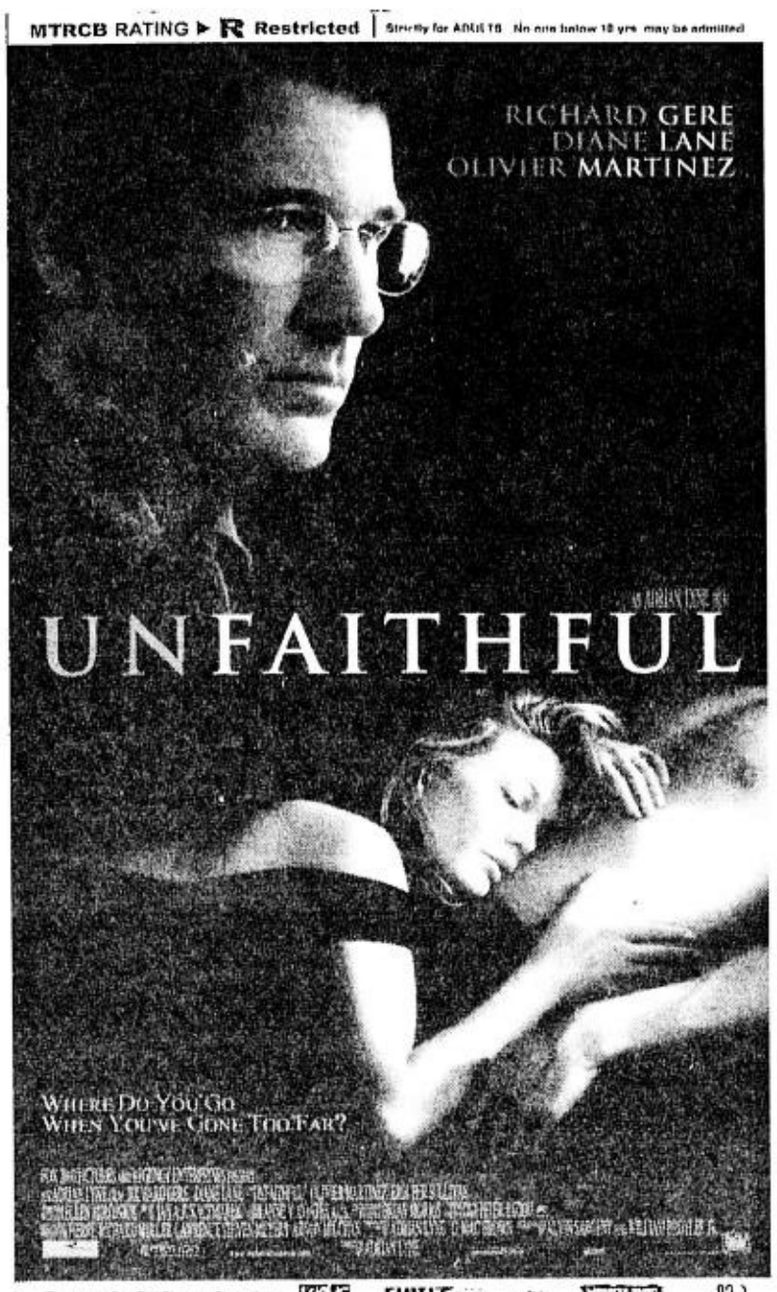
EVERY Sunday at 9 a.m., the Star World Channel telecasts "Billboard US Countdown," highlighting top hits from Billboard's Hot 100 Chart, featuring singing stars like **Kylie Minogue**, **Ashanti**, No Doubt and The Calling.

'Futurama'

ALSO on Star World on Sundays (at 7 p.m.), the new animated series, "Futurama," is a creation of **Matt Groening**, the man behind "The Simpsons."

"Futurama" is set in the next millenium. It follows the exploits of Fry, a pizza-delivery boy who was cryogenically frozen by accident 1,000 years ago; Leela, a female Cyclops; Bender, an immoral robot, and the other people who work for an intergalactic delivery service owned by Prof. Farnsworth.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted | Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted



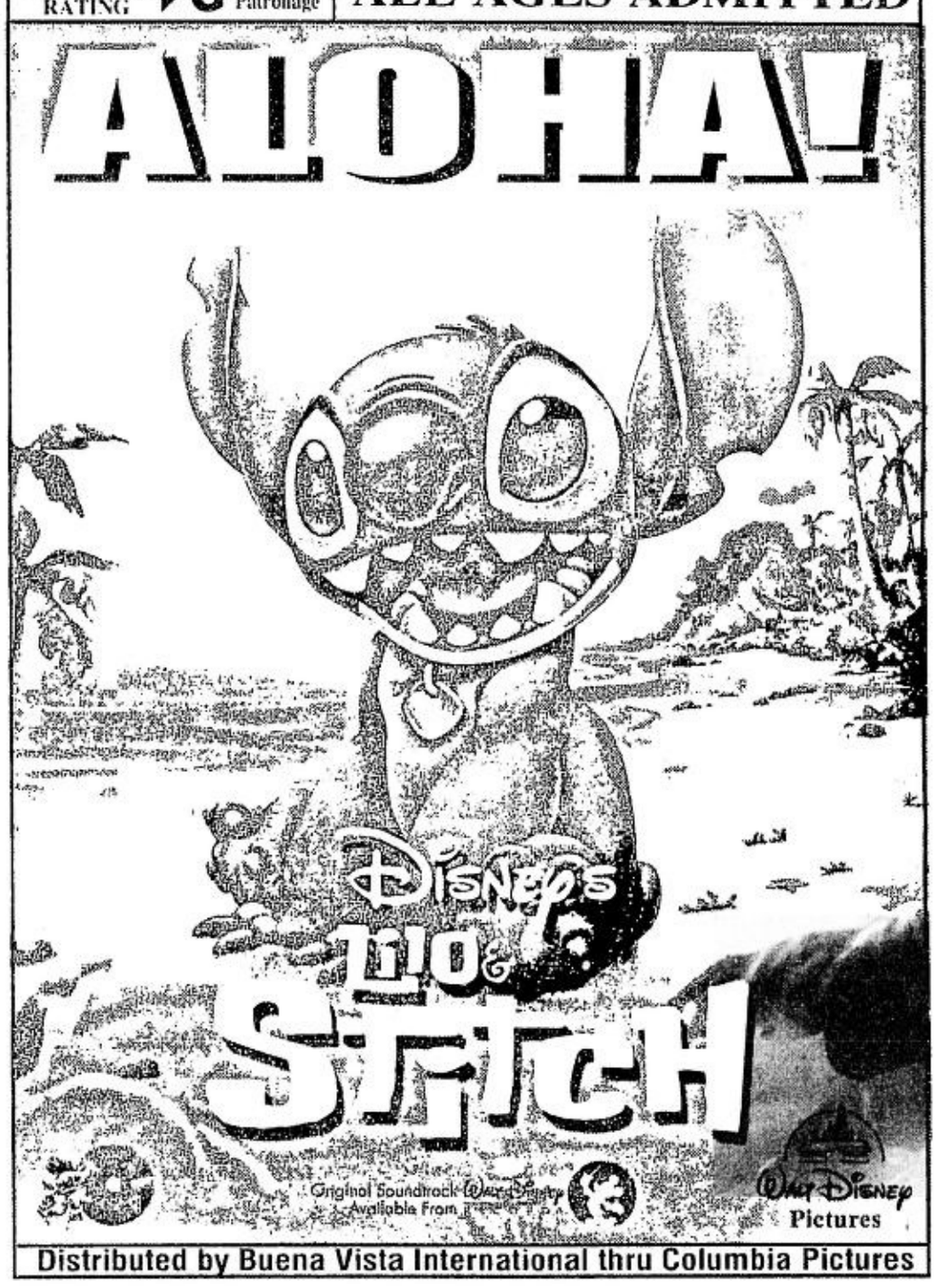
Special thanks to

OPENS AUGUST 14

A MAGICAL DISNEY TREAT FOR MOVIEGOERS OF ALL AGES!

OPENS AUGUST 14

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED



Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GALING GALING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	D' URAGONS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WINDTALKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ABOUT A BOY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SAGAD
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PAGSAWAAN / 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
ODEON	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
ODEON-2	REPLICANT / HARI NG SELDA
ROBEN	SAGAD
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	JIHAD WARRIOR / NOT ANOTHER THING

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	SAGAD
REMAR	SAGAD
REMAR-2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAK

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	D' URAGONS
B	SAGAD
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-2	WINDTALKERS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GALING GALING
CINEMA-2	PAKISABI NA LANG
CINEMA-3	SAGAD
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	D' URAGONS
CINEMA-6	MEGGIDO
CINEMA-7	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-8	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-12	ABOUT A BOY
CINEMA-14	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-15	D' URAGONS

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-6	SELDA

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | All Ages Admitted

FROM THE PRODUCERS THAT BROUGHT YOU SHREK

OPENS AUGUST 23

OPENS AUGUST 14

For screening times, call 729-7777
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
8 LEGGED FREAKS	1 ABOUT A BOY 2 8 LEGGED FREAKS	MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002	ABOUT A BOY 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	STUART LITTLE 2
KILLING ME SOFTLY	KILLING ME SOFTLY 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002	KILLING ME SOFTLY 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	ABOUT A BOY
D' URAGONS	4 MEN IN BLACK 2 5 STUART LITTLE 2	Coming Soon RICO J. PUNO IN SOMETHING WONDERFUL AUG. 16 - 9PM	STUART LITTLE 2 11:40, 1:20, 3:00, 4:40, 6:20, 8:00, 9:40, 11:20	KILLING ME SOFTLY
WINDTALKERS	WINDTALKERS 7 SORORITY BOYS		AMELIE 12:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	8 LEGGED FREAKS
			WINDTALKERS 12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20	WINDTALKERS

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEAT" GA (for any Ayala Cinema) and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.ayalacinemas.com

The Ayala Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI | ALABANG | CEBU

MAKATI
August 2 to 4
2pm, 4pm and 6pm
Glorietta Activity Center

ALABANG
August 9 to 11
11am, 3pm and 6pm
Activity Center

CEBU
August 16
11:30am, 5pm and 7pm
August 17 & 18
11:30am, 3pm and 6pm
Activity Center

bench/

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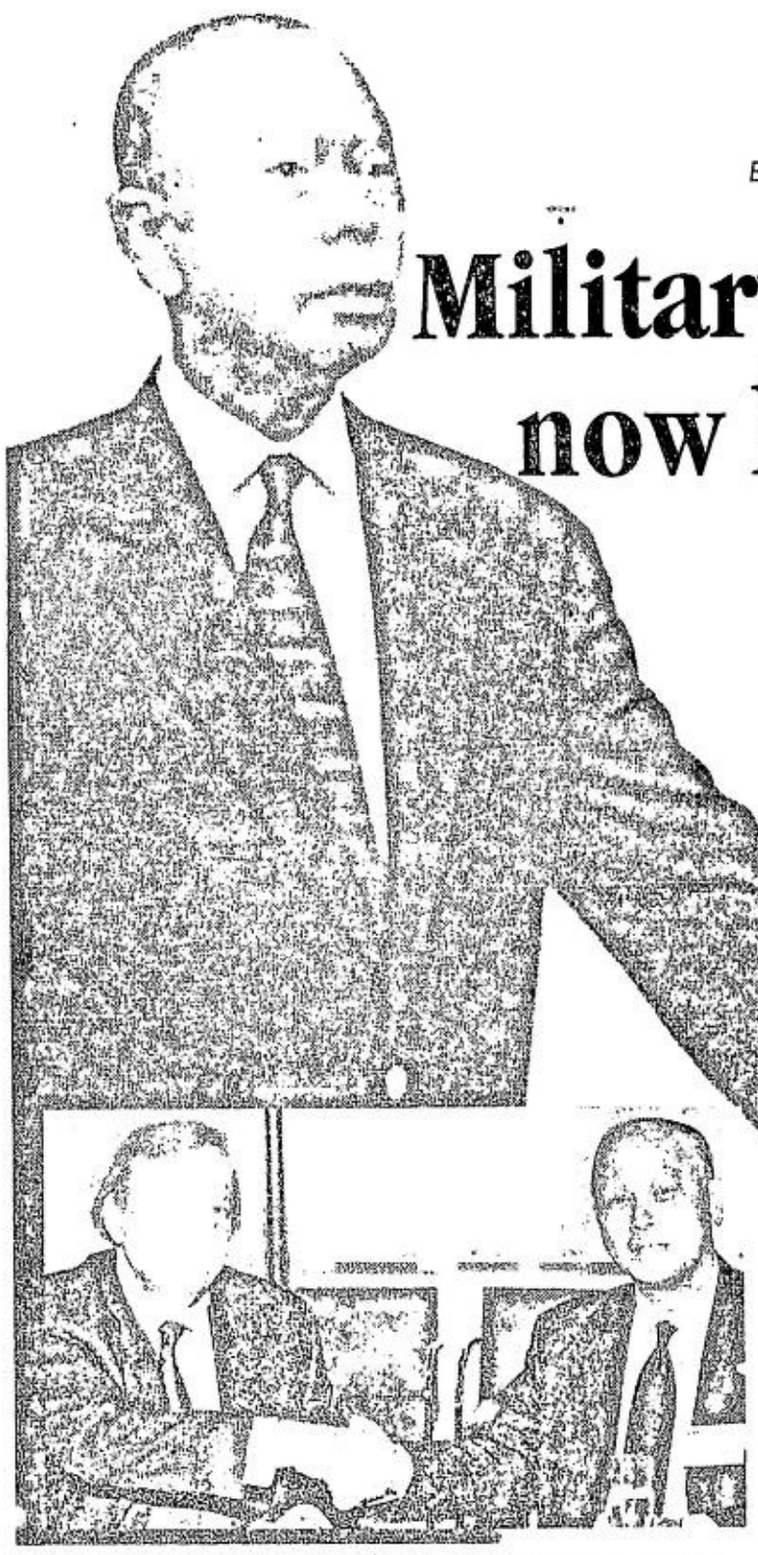
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SundayBIZ

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Military school taught CEO discipline; now heads biggest lender to SMEs



WORLD Bank managing director and Tambunting during the signing of a $25.5 million equity investment and technical support of sets. PHOTO BY JOHNNY VILLENA

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

JESUS P. Tambunting, chair and CEO of Planters Development Bank, was enjoying life so much in 1956 that his parents thought it would do the teenager good to enter a military academy in the United States.

He was a little too fond of movies and the social whirl to his parents' liking.

The elder Tambuntings thought that the rigorous training in an academy would prevent the young Tambunting from becoming too used to living the carefree life he enjoyed while he was a student at the Ateneo.

He certainly had the means as his father's family started the Tambunting pawnshop and he grew up with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth.

Sending a son off to foreign military school may seem too harsh for some but then Tambunting's parents have always been strict and conservative. He admits that his social life earned him a taste of his father's belt as a young boy.

So at 15 years old, the young Tambunting left his barkada who included host Johnny Litton and the late Bobby Anonas of the Bank of Commerce and went to the Culver Military Academy in Indiana with an older brother.

He says he was supposed to be the only one to go to the military school but his brother made the mistake of staying out too late one evening so his parents decided to also send him off to military school.

CAVALRY cadet at Culver Military Academy, Indiana, in the late 1950s.

Culture shock

Not surprisingly, entering the rigid system of a military school was a culture shock for the young Tambunting, who was used to a life of fun and ease in Manila.

"We would get up at 6:30 in the morning and by 7 we would have cleaned our room, gone through inspection and eaten breakfast," he recalls.

The former Ambassador to the Court of St. James's admits that life at the military academy was "very difficult."

"As plebes or first years, we had to walk around the barracks marching and doing things for the upper classmen," he recalls.

He adds though that there were no physical difficulties like hazing but "there were opportunities to build the body through sports."

After classes, the students were given time in the afternoon to engage in sports and Tambunting used the time wisely.

Active in sports

He loved basketball even then, and he would have played for the Ateneo team if he had not gone to the United States.

Ateneo's loss was Culver's gain even if his schoolmates thought him odd. He was the only non-American at that time who was part of the basketball varsity team.

"People looked at me like I was a freak because at that time, they thought Filipinos lived in the mountains, on top of trees. I played center even if I was not the tallest but I could jump high," he relates.

Other than basketball, he also went into boxing and wrestling and says he consistently joined the school's intramurals.

His passion for horses was also provided an outlet as Culver was the only military unit in the United States with a cavalry, and he was a part of it.

After finishing secondary education in Culver, he decided to continue his schooling in the United States and got into the University of Maryland. The late Carlos P. Romulo who was the country's ambassador to the US was his guardian and he stayed with him on weekends.

The young military graduate did not really know what to do so he decided to study business, majoring in Economics.

He and his brother shared an apartment outside the campus and the free spirit in him was awakened during his college days. He went out a lot and had fun during the swinging '60s.

But the three years of discipline acquired from

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COTABATO CITY: BESTOP SHELL STATION (SINSUAT AVE., COR. RAMON RAVAGO ST., COTABATO CITY)
GENERAL SANTOS CITY: CORDURA SHELL STATION (NATIONAL HIGHWAY, GENERAL SANTOS CITY)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SundayBIZ
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2002

DE LA Salle System president Bro. Rolando Dizon (left) with Finance Secretary Jose IsidroCamacho and BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura

FORMER Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario Jr. (left) with Guillermo Luchangco and former Central Bank Governor Jose L. Cuisia Jr.

BUENAVENTURA (left) with his former partner in government Jose Pardo

Green Archers salute alumni in government and business

THREE years ago, De La Salle University-Manila and the De La Salle Alumni Association hosted a recognition night for alumni in government service.

The affair was very well-attended, and those who came had an opportunity to be updated on what has been going on with their alma mater.

It was also an excellent time for these Lasallian achievers serving in the same sector of society to interact and realize that they all had one common credential: a Lasallian education.

In keeping with this tradition, Part 2 of the We Salute Our Own series pays tribute to Lasallian "captains of industry" in the banking and financial community, the sector responsible for mobilizing the financial resources of the Philippine economy.

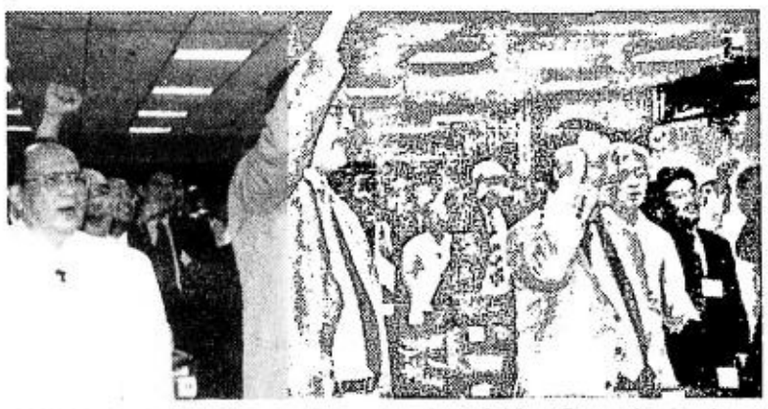
The list is made up of alumni who are now senior officers of banks, investment houses, stock brokerage companies, insurance companies and non-bank financial intermediaries.

As with the first, the event was well attended by leading personalities in this sector led by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

We Salute Our Own Part 2 was held at the St. La Salle Hall of the De La Salle University Professional School's Graduate School of Business campus at the RCBC Plaza, Makati.

Government officials cited as Lasallian alumni achievers include Antonino L. Alindogan Jr. of the BSP, Treasurer Sergio G. Edeza, Norberto C. Nazareno of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., Cayetano W. Paderanga Jr. of the Asian Development Bank, Philam group's Jose L. Cuisia Jr., former Finance chiefs Roberto F. de Ocampo, Jose Pardo and Ramon R. del Rosario Jr. and former Socioeconomic secretary Felipe M. Medalla.

Other luminaries were Isidro C. Alcantara Jr., Rene J. Buenaventura, Placido L. Mapa Jr., Vitaliano N. Nañagas II, Dionisio Ong, Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., Lorenzo V. Tan, Rafael F. Simpao, Walter C. Wassmer, Deogracias Vistan , Alfonso T. Yuchengco, Manuel N. Tordesillas, Conrado F. Bate, Ramon C. Garcia Jr., Gregorio Kilayko, Harry Liu, Roberto Lorayes, Francisco M. Ortigas III, Alejandro Yu, Enrique Zalamea and Aloysius B. Colayco.



ANIMO La Salle! Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho lead alumni in singing the alma mater song.

Bank celebrates 130 years in the Philippines

FROM left, CEO Annemarie Durbin, Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, former President Fidel V. Ramos, and Her Majesty's Ambassador Paul Dimond

FROM left, SCB's Ajay Kanwal, credit cards and personal loans general manager; Beth Morales, human resources head; Mike Aguilar, global markets head; Dev Sarker, corporates and institution head; Annemarie Durbin; Sridhar Raman, country financial officer; Matthew Yeung, country operating officer; and Tony Robles, wealth management general manager.

STANDARD Chartered Bank (SCB) recently celebrated its 130 years in the Philippines.

The celebration gathered prominent personalities not only from the banking industry but also from the government and business sectors.

Held at the lobby of the SCB Building along Ayala Avenue in Makati, the celebration was highlighted by the unveiling ceremony for the new SCB logo designed and conceptualized to reaffirm the bank's strengthened partnership with its customers, dedication to people development, and long-term commitment to the country's progress.

Leading the unveiling rites was SCB's chief executive for the Philippines Annemarie Durbin with guests of honor, Central Bank Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Her Majesty's Ambassador Paul Dimond, former President and now chairman of the PBSP Fidel V. Ramos, and Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas.

SCB executives Ajay Kanwal, Dev Sarker, Beth Morales, Mike Aguilar, Sridhar Raman, Matthew Yeung, and Tony Robles welcomed guests including Wallace Business Forum president Peter Wallace, Makati Business Club president Guillermo Luz, SGV & Co. founder Washington Sycip, businessman Alejandro Prieto, INQUIRER publisher Marixi Prieto, Philamlife chair Jose Cuisia Jr., and Msgr. Nico Bautista.

The unveiling of the new logo at the building's facade was accompanied by brass music and dance numbers from various youth groups; dropping of thousands of blue and green balloons and confetti; and a massive gathering of guests, officers, and employees of the bank that closed a block of Ayala Avenue. Entertainment was provided by the SCB Chorale who dished out a beautiful rendition of the bank's corporate song, "I Believe I Can Fly."

SCB's Annemarie Durbin and Ajay Kanwal, credit cards and personal loans general manager

FROM left, SGV & Co. founder Washington Sycip, businessman Alejandro Prieto, Philippine Daily Inquirer board chair Marixi Prieto and Philamlife chairman of the board Jose Cuisia Jr.

SCB chief executive for the Philippines Annemarie Durbin and SGV & Co. founder Washington Sycip

Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas and Msgr. Nico Bautista

Military school taught CEO discipline . . . From page B1

the military academy was enough to ensure that he did his job as a student.

Entry into banking

"I enjoyed college and I improved as a student but I was able to date around," he smiles.

He immediately went home after seven years in the United States (he came to Manila every other year) and took a job as assistant cashier at Manilabank, where his father was a shareholder.

As assistant cashier, he handled the cash from the deposits and was in charge of the tellers. He worked at the head office then.

Earning money for the first time, Tambunting says he blew most of his first salary of P300 on a night out with friends.

Their favorite hangout at that time was the Alba's nightclub along Dewey Boulevard (now Roxas Blvd.) and his drinks of choice were beer or Scotch on the rocks.

Since he dealt with millions of pesos in cash at a time, he says, "It was one job I couldn't afford to be lax. I was a custodian of many documents but Culver taught me the discipline to handle the task."

He did not really know what he wanted to do but his father suggested that he try banking with the come-on that "you would be in a position to be of help to people."

He was actually glad to be directed somewhere else instead of immediately joining the family business.

"When I arrived, I felt I should not work with the family as I would surely get the lowest job and being the youngest (of seven), six other people would be telling me what to do," he explains.

TAMBUNTING welcomes Prince Charles during the Royal's visit to Manila in 1998. He is flanked by Foreign Affairs Sec. Domingo Siazon (between the two) and on Tambunting's left is Alfredo Lim.

What he really wanted was to work in a place where he would get promoted based on hard work and not on being a son of the owner. The banking industry provided him that avenue.

"At that time, there was no marketing in banks. Before, people would line up to borrow money," he says.

The economy was booming during those days so there was a big demand for loans. Time deposits were also at healthy levels.

"I got to like banking," he states. From assistant cashier he was made branch manager of the Quezon Blvd. branch where he says he felt "like a little bank president."

After two years of hard work, he was made cashier at the head office with the position of assistant vice president.

His last post at Manilabank was senior vice president and treasurer. He stayed a total of 17 years at the bank (which closed in the '80s but was allowed to reopen in the '90s).

He considers former Manilabank director Manuel Morales as his mentor. Morales became chair of Equitable Bank, president of the Bankers Association of the Philippines and Monetary Board member.

"He gave me a lot of latitude to grow and develop. He became a good friend," Tambunting says.

He says he learned the value of integrity from Morales.

"I learned integrity and the rudiments of banking. He was a deep thinker, a self-made man, disciplined with values and principles," Tambunting says.

He adds that banking carries a lot of temptations—clients would bribe bankers all the time to endorse their loans and to close their eyes when certain requirements were lacking.

Going on his own

When he left Manilabank he still liked banking so he decided to acquire a bank even if he was in the business of buying and selling real estate properties. He recalls that his first loan was with the Philippine National Bank where he borrowed P300,000 to buy a piece of property.

In 1977, he bought a bank in Malolos, Bulacan, for P500,000. The name was changed to Planters Development Bank and his plan was to eventually convert it into a commercial bank and move its office to Makati.

The plan did not push through, however, after he saw the impact of the bank's lending operations on small businesses. He, thus, decided against converting into a commercial bank, and instead, concentrated lending to small and medium enterprises.

Plantersbank has become the country's largest SME lender, earning for it a Hall of Fame Award from the Department of Trade Industry for its efforts to help uplift the fate of SMEs.

He also brought in partners to Plantersbank such as International Finance Corp., the lending arm of the World Bank to private businesses; the Asian Development Bank and the Netherlands Development Finance Co.

Plantersbank recently acquired Active Bank and immediately expanded Plantersbank's branches by 31.

THE FORMER ambassador and wife Margarita during a trip to New York City in the '60's.

In between his stints with the bank, he was appointed ambassador to London during the Ramos administration. He asked Morales to take over the bank in his absence.

Today, Tambunting is back in his old post. He has remained physically active—playing basketball until his appointment as ambassador, and for a while tennis. But a bad knee forced him to change sports so he now sticks to taking brisk walks.

He tries to do it every other day but he says he can only do this when he is abroad.

He insists on the family taking an annual vacation together every year—a sojourn that lasts two weeks to a month. He says everybody goes and so far they have been to Sydney, Disneyworld and Italy.

At 66, Tambunting still wants to continue working. He is going to set up an equity fund for SMEs and he is open to buying another bank—"if an opportunity presents itself."

As to the possibility of joining the government, he says he had previously been offered to head PNB and Landbank during Cory Aquino's time but there were those who wanted the position.

During Estrada's short term as president, he was also being eyed to be in the Cabinet, having been Erap's classmate at the Ateneo.

But he knew he could never work under such a leadership. And he was proven quite right.

Goat raising is profitable business

Text and photos by Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Goats can be a profitable business enterprise especially if they are raised in a scale beyond the backyard raising mode and their management is given the needed attention.

Demand for goat meat, called chevon, has been increasing in the countryside due maybe to the ban on the slaughter of dogs whose meat is among the favorites in many eateries. Many eateries are now offering, particularly as *pulutan* (appetizer), goat meat in lieu of their usual dog meat dishes.

In supermarkets, packages of goat meat are offered for sale. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of buyers of these packages.

Aside from their meat, the female goats can produce milk, which can be used or sold as fresh milk or processed into cheese and butter.

The skin of goats can be used for handbags, leather vests, shoes, jackets, gloves and others.

Despite the high market demand for goat meat and milk, however, there are not many commercial goat farms found in the country today (only about 0.37 percent).

Most goat raisers in the country are farmers carrying out backyard raising to supplement their income from farming.

Many of these farmers raise the animals, according to the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), through tethering which means that the goats are tied each to a rope and allowed to graze.

Available records showed that the population of goats in the country has fluctuated from year to year. In 1983, its population was 1.86 million then rose to 2.362 million the following year and dropped to 2.191 million in 1985.

Starting 1992, population increased from 2.307 million to 3.214 million in 2001, according to Bureau of Agricultural Statistics studies.

Of the total goat population in 1995, 99.58 percent were raised by backyard raisers.

In 2001, Central Visayas had the most number of goats raised (492,123 heads), accounting for 15 percent of the total goat population. Ilocos region closely followed at 437,145 or 14 percent.

The other regions showed the following percentage share in the total goat population of the country: Southern Mindanao, 12 percent; Western Visayas, 11 percent; Central Luzon, 8 percent; Southern Tagalog, 8 percent; Central Mindanao, 6 percent; Western Mindanao, 5 percent; Northern Mindanao, 5 percent; ARRM, 5 percent; Cagayan Valley, 4 percent; Bicol, 2 percent; and Eastern Visayas, 2 percent.

The goat population in Central Visayas, Ilocos and Southern Mindanao accounted for 40 percent of the goat population in the country.

Marketing of live goats for meat, according to studies conducted by the Small Ruminants Center (SRC) of the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) here, is generally channeled from the raisers to the consumers with a few being sold by the raisers through traders, middlemen, retailers or institutional buyers.

Pricing practices are generally based on weight, size and breed.

Average farmgate price from 1999 to 2001 showed an increasing trend, from P44.99 to P53.76 a kilogram.

Goat production

Goat production, according to Emilio Cruz, SRC director, is an attractive enterprise. This is because, he said, there are many favorable characteristics of this animal that may be seen as advantages over other livestock being raised for profit.

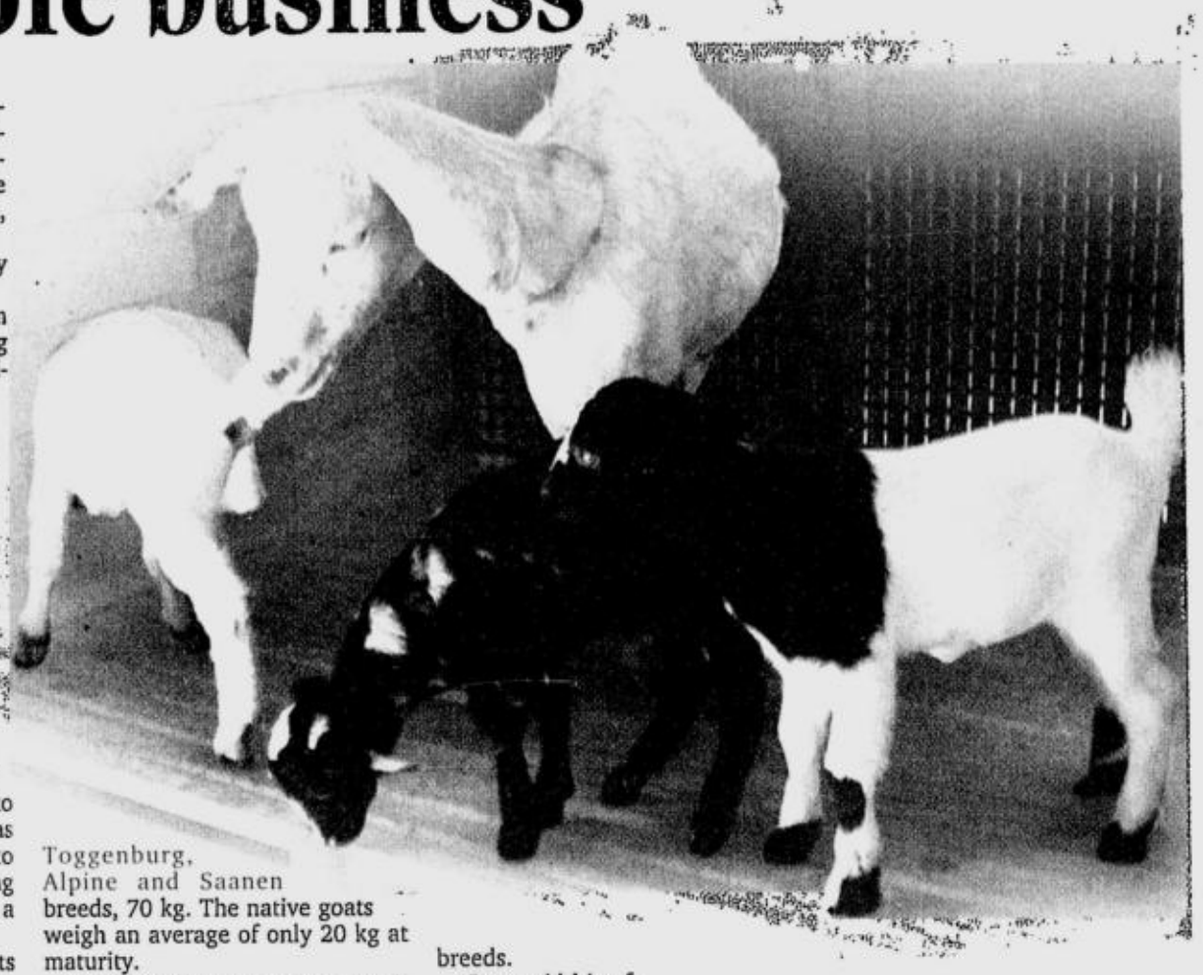
The goats, he said, have high fertility and reproductive rates, and are resistant to diseases.

Other important characteristics which make them very attractive to raisers is their capability to breed as early as eight months old and to have multiple births. Their offspring can already be sold in less than a year.

For those starting to raise goats for commercial purposes, the advice is for them to have good foundation stocks. Some foreign breeds or strains found to be growing well under Philippine conditions are the Anglo-Nubian, Toggenburg, Alpine, Saanen and Boer.

The Anglo-Nubian breed appears to be the favorite.

At maturity, the Boer breed weighs up to 90 kilograms, the Anglo-Nubian, 80 kg, and Toggenburg, Alpine and Saanen breeds, 70 kg. The native goats weigh an average of only 20 kg at maturity.



Current efforts in goat research are directed toward cross breeding the native goat with the best of the foreign-bred bucks.

Anglo-Nubian appears to be the favorite breed being used to upgrade the breed of the native goats.

For milking purposes, the foreign breed can provide 1 to 2 liters a day at most for 200 days. The Saanen breed appears to produce higher quantities of milk than the other breeds.

Cruz said his office has conducted studies on feeding and nutrition, general management, diseases and parasites, breeding and reproduction, physiology, socioeconomics and technology promotion and utilization.

He also said several cooperators of the center have been giving good feedback on their goat-raising venture.

The center has also come out with modified recipes for chevon in addition to the popular recipes from the Philippines, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Thailand, he said.

ENTREPRENEURS can earn a lot from goat-raising.

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People, Events & Products

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Informatics offers foreign degree programs

STUDENTS and professionals can now acquire international degrees recognized worldwide through the Informatics Foreign Degree Program allowing enrollees to choose from three international degrees offered online or on-campus.

This was announced by Informatics Philippines president Leo Riingen, who said that this new offering can expand and broaden the base of busy executives who are constrained by work pressure from pursuing higher education which can push them up the corporate ladder, and students who would like to enroll in foreign degrees but cannot afford to leave the country.

According to Riingen, the bachelor degrees can be finished within a span of three years without compromising the quality of learning and having to leave the country. While going through the programs, the students will also experience the social aspect of a traditional school while getting exposed to e-learning which is the latest medium of instruction and technology. "This type of course structure also exposes the students to have flexibility of work and study at the same time," Riingen added.

The Foreign Degree Program makes use of the twinning concept where students will take the first two years from Informatics Philippines and finish the rest in an affiliate foreign university, or online through Purpletrain.com, Informatics' online learning services provider. The program is using the United Kingdom-based system of education—a ladderized and modular approach in learning composed of three levels, Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Final Program. The first two levels are offered through Informatics Philippines under the Advanced Diploma in Computer Studies Program and for each completed level a diploma will be awarded to the students, which they can use later in applying for entry-level jobs.

The global education programs and curricula of Informatics Philippines are certified and validated by international institutions which include the National Computing Center (NCC, UK) and the University of Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate (UCLes). Informatics courses are also recognized by over 50 foreign colleges and universities in the United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia, Middle East, South Africa, Sweden and Asia.

Among the foreign universities tapped by Informatics Philippines to offer its foreign degree programs are Salem International University, which was founded in 1888, and the University of Portsmouth, a 125-year-old institution.

Finally, the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS) is offered by Informatics Singapore, which is validated and awarded by The Informatics Group Academic Board.

WIRELESS TECH TACKLED AT SYNERGY 2002

Intel Microelectronics Philippines Inc. and Hewlett-Packard Philippine Corp. recently concluded its yearly offsite activity with local IT press at El Nido Resort in Lagen Island, Palawan. With this year's theme of 'Empowering our Communities', Intel and HP shared their initiatives in the Internet and communications space, particularly broadband and wireless technologies. The two IT giants also provided media with updates on company activities, initiatives and other product and corporate developments throughout the year. During the summit, the National Computer Center director general was on-hand to discuss government initiatives and actions plans for IT growth in the country, while ePLDT chief operating officer Manny Dizon offered insights on wireless broadband trends. Shown are this year's Synergy contingent with representatives from media, government and private sector, Intel and Hewlett-Packard.

AMC CATERING SERVICES

Amelia dela Cruz (middle), proprietress of AMC Catering Services and one of the finalists in the Mama Sita Foundation's Search for a Cooking Family, pose with some of her staff when Search judges recently visited and sampled some of its catering specialties.

MEDICAL CENTER CREATES MILESTONE

Health care in Pampanga gets a boost with the emergence of a 1,000-bed capacity hospital. Dee Hwa Liong Foundation Medical Center offers a complete line of health care services and has fully innovative state-of-the-art medical equipment considered the first in Central Luzon. Shown, from left, is Rema Padilla-Ohno, VP of Himex Corp., exclusive ditsributor of new Hitachi medical equipment in the Philippines, Anthony Dee, president of Dee Hwa Liong Foundation Medical Center, and Junichi Nakahata, deputy managing director of Hitachi Medical Systems (S) PTE LTD, after the contract signing between the medical center and Hitachi in Singapore.

BPI RP'S BEST BANK -- EUROMONEY

Internationally acclaimed finance magazine Euromoney--in its July 2002 issue--has named the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) the Philippines' Best Bank for 2002. Euromoney deemed BPI worthy of the honor mainly for keeping its non-performing loans well under control and below industry average at a time when other financial institutions were having a hard time doing so. Euromoney senior manager for Asia Marcus H. Langston (right) hands over the certificate of award for excellence to BPI senior executive vice president Aurelio R. Montinola III. BPI was conferred best Internet bank for 2001 and best emerging markets bank for 2002 by Global Finance. It was also named best local bank for 2002 by FinanceAsia.

Imports preempt price hikes

THE TIMELY arrival of the country's rice imports has kept rice prices stable despite the recent typhoons and massive flooding that hit Metro Manila and other parts of the country.

National Food Authority administrator Anthony Abad said 269,386 metric tons of rice imports had arrived into the country as of the second week of July. This is equivalent to 69 percent of the total 390,000 metric tons contracted by the government.

Abad said the rice imports started to arrive in May and deliveries are expected to be completed before the end of August this year. He added that the government would ensure that arrivals would not jibe with the start of harvest for the main crop in October so as not to affect the price of local rice produce.

"The early arrival of the rice imports has boosted NFA's rice inventory, giving us leeway to strategically position the stocks and distribute in areas affected by the recent calamities. In effect, we were able to preempt any undue increase in rice prices", Abad said.

He also informed that through strategic positioning of the stocks, NFA ensures there will be sufficient rice for buffer and food security purposes, particularly in traditionally rice deficit provinces like Batanes and in high consumption areas including Metro Manila and other cities.

The government contracted some 245,000 metric tons of rice from India, 70,000 MT from Thailand, 50,000 from Vietnam and 25,000 MT from Pakistan, a total of 390,000 MT.

Recently, the government has approved the importation of an additional 250,000 metric tons to beef up the country's rice reserve in view of the El Niño phenomenon which is expected to hit the country later this year. Meanwhile, the agriculture department has announced a standby authority for the importation of another 250,000 MT. This brings to a total 890,000 MT the country's slated rice imports for this year.

ALAY LAKAD COMMEMORATIVE COVER ISSUED

The Philippine Postal Corp, recognizing the key role of Alay Lakad Foundation in youth development, is issuing a commemorative cover to mark the 30th anniversary of the walk-for-a-cause event on Sept. 1 all over the country. The commemorative cover is a special customized letter envelope depicting designs from Alay Lakad that can be used for mailing letters or as plain souvenirs to commemorate the anniversary of the foundation. Shown with Postmaster General Nicasio Rodriguez (center) are (from left) Alay Lakad executive director Rafael Cosuco, National Coordinating Committee For Alay Lakad 2002 co-chair Gen. Francisco Atayde (ret.), Alay Lakad Foundation Inc. president Frank Evaristo and Lourdes Flores-Cubelo, chief of Philippine Postal Corp.'s philatelic division.

BITS & Clips

Applications for fellowships open

APPLICATIONS for the Nippon Foundation Fellowships for Asian Public Intellectuals (API Fellowships) are welcomed. This program grants financial and other forms of support to professionals to carry out research and professional activities in participating Asian countries other than their own. Participating countries are Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan and the Philippines. Interested parties may check the API website at www.ikmas.ukm.my/api or http://api.ateneo.net for more information and to download the application form. Call the API Philippines office at 426-6001 local 5205 (look for Russell Tabisula), fax 426-1279, or e-mail api@admu.edu.ph. Deadline for submission of applications is on Aug. 31. Submit applications via e-mail or postal mail to the API Fellowships office, Center for Community Services Building, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108.

APO's photo contest, part 2

THE ASIAN Productivity Organization (APO) will again sponsor a photo contest this year, with the theme "Improving Productivity in Harmony With the Environment". Citizens of APO member countries are invited. Photos should feature environment-friendly work places and production technologies and skills, recycling and waste treatment, environmental protection in the production of agricultural or marine products or in daily life, and teamwork in production activities and daily life. Deadline of submission is on Aug. 31. For entry forms, visit PDC-DAP at the 4th floor lower, PDC Library, DAP Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City, or call Lito Legaspi at 631-2126, or 631-0921 to 30 local 125. Prizes include US$1,000, $750, and $500 in cash, compact cameras, and certificates.

Product FILES

Art Gel Papers for Li'l Hands

ART GEL PAPERS are dark-colored papers specially made for Li'l Hands Art Gel Pens. Li'l Hands Art Gel Paper comes in 4x6" and 8.5x11" sizes, in writing and doodle pads. Li'l Hands Art Gel pens papers go beyond the regular daily writing routine. It makes writing more exciting. It is best used as an instrument to personalize postcards and greeting cards, and design colorful personalized invitations. Li'l Hands Art Gel pens are available in pastel colors of pink, yellow, green, blue, violet, white and orange. It also comes in new electrifying metallic colors of green, silver, pink, violet, blue, gold, and bronze. These are available in leading bookstores nationwide.

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF MAKATI OFFICERS INDUCTED

The newly elected officers of the Inner Wheel Club (IWC) of Makati headed by their president Daisy M. Concepcion (second from right) recently took their oath of office before Inner Wheel national president Araceli Macatangay in rites held last July 26 at the Makati Shangrila Hotel. Also shown are (from left) are IWC national first vice president Edna Ibrado, IWC District 381 chair Baby Golez, immediate past president Menchu Romero, director Evelyn Ledesma and treasurer Judy Tintoc. Providing support and inspiration to Daisy is her husband Dr. Tony Concepcion (right). On the podium is past president Margie Lorenzo, who acted as the night's master of ceremonies. The other officers of IWC Makati are vice president Dory Gomez, secretary Marta Pineda, assistant secretary Annett Schilling, assistant PRO Aida Pagsibigan, assistant treasurer Veronica Yao, and directors Mary Ann Borromeo, Virginia Grey, Donna Lok, Mildred Romero, and Rosita Romero.

Photo contest on Boracay lifestyles

ALL PROFESSIONALS and amateur photographers are invited to join the Boracay Lifestyle Photo Contest currently ongoing until Aug. 30. Old and new photos on scenery, people, events, architecture, island life and other subjects that capture the "Boracay lifestyle" may be submitted as entries. Entries may be colored or black and white, and must be printed in 8"x10" photo paper from a digital source or film format. Winners are required to submit the negatives or digital files of their entries. Winning entries will be used in the publication of the book "The Boracay Lifestyle" with appropriate credits. Submit entry forms and your entries on or before Aug. 30 to Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., Unit 6-D Cypress Gardens Condominium, 112 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati. Call Maan or Theresa at 893-9355 or 816-3109 for more details.

RP's liposuction queen used to sell pies

By Leah Salterio

THE MARKET for cosmetic surgery continues to thrive. As more women—and men—want to look good, there are more medical practitioners who make cosmetic surgery their business.

The Aug. 5 cover story of Time Magazine reported about the recent boom of cosmetic surgery in Asia. In the past, Time said Asia had lagged behind the West in catching the plastic surgery wave. But cosmetic surgery is now booming in Asia like never before.

"Asians are blowing it on cosmetic surgery at an unprecedented rate," Time reported. In Taiwan, a million procedures were performed last year, double the number five years ago. In South Korea, even kids are now into cosmetic obsession and Thailand has also become a surgical hub.

"Around Asia, women—and increasingly men—are nipping and tucking, sucking and suturing, injecting and implanting, all in the quest for better looks."

In the Philippines, "It's growing and growing, and more doctors are going into it," says Dr. Vicky Belo, the name that has become synonymous to sculpted bodies through liposuction.

Yet, Belo welcomes the competition. After 12 years in the medical profession, she shows no letup in her chosen field and remains at the forefront.

She continues to introduce the latest vanity treatments. Through cosmetic dermatology, Belo can do wonders on perennial eyebags, pimply faces or permanent scars. She also offers breast augmentation, laser treatments, nose lift, removal of warts, keloids, cellulites, wrinkles, birthmarks or tattoos, grafting and, of course, the now-popular liposuction. Recently, Belo even introduced anti-aging medicine.

Teens to sixty-somethings

Belo's clients range from teenagers with zits or sixty-something ladies who need a facelift, to men who want to lose their flabs or need a chin-tuck.

And while she has been identified with show biz personalities who want to look good, Belo claims that celebrities only make up 10 percent of her clients.

In keeping up with their profession, the celebrities have made consultations with Belo part of their regimen and schedule.

The more prominent ones who have been vocal about their liposuction treatment are Rosanna Roces, Lorna Tolentino, Arnel Ignacio and Ai-Ai de las Alas.

Others who go to Belo for facial and skin care include Kris Aquino, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Edu Manzano, Boy Abunda, Vanessa del Bianco, Angela Velez, Rica Peralejo, Christine Bersola and the ABS-CBN Hunks—Diether Ocampo, Bernard Palanca, Carlos Agassi, Piolo Pascual and Jericho Rosales.

Entrepreneurial skills

Belo has a keen business sense, which has been inherent since she was a little girl. Young as she was then, she discovered her entrepreneurial skills by selling goodies which she baked.

"My mom would buy me all the ingredients and I would bake pies which I sold to my classmates, friends and cousins," Belo shares. "I started selling when I was only 5."

Since then, Belo made sure she made money from whatever endeavor she got into.

BELO

Fitness buff

In college, when she became a fitness buff, she got into aerobics and became a fitness instructor at Clark Hatch in Shangri-La and Manila Polo Club.

"I was fat and I knew I had to work out," Belo says. "I saw it to get fit and earn money at the same time. I got my training in Los Angeles and taught here."

However, when she got into medical school, Belo stopped teaching aerobics. She took up pre-med B.S. Psychology at the University of the Philippines and completed her medical studies specializing in dermatology at the University of Sto. Tomas.

She passed the board and obtained her medical license in 1986. She trained at Makati Medical Center for one year; went to Thailand, where she trained in cosmetic surgery under Dr. Newat Pornikorn. She received a diploma in dermatology from Thailand's Institute of Dermatology.

Belo studied liposuction surgery with Dr. Jeffrey Kleine at San Juan Capistrano Surgery Center in California. She also did laser surgery with Dr. Richard Fitzpatrick in the United States.

From the first day that she started in her medical practice, Belo has learned to enjoy her job. From having a small clinic in Makati, she now heads the Belo Medical Group, which has five branches in Manila.

"That's why I love medicine," Belo attests. "It's so progressive. Last year, the botox technique made $1.4 billion in the United States. I want to make the Philippines a first world country, at least in an area where I have some influence."

Controversy

Early last month, Belo was in Paris where she attended the World Congress of Dermatology. Even while she was out of the country, Belo was not spared of controversy. It was reported that she was at odds with the Philippine Medical Association over her alleged self-advertisement.

But as soon as she arrived in Manila, Belo addressed the PMA issue and had a dialogue with the group's lawyer Bu Castro to clarify things.

It turned out it was just a few members and not the entire medical association, who filed the complaint with the organization regarding Belo's advertising. It's not true that she was being investigated by the medical association, nor is there a danger for her to lose her medical license.

The incident did not dampen Belo in expanding her business and introducing more beauty procedures.

Recently, the Belo Medical Group opened another branch in Greenhills. "The new branch is within the guidelines of the PMA," Belo says: "We're more attuned now to the rules of the association. I was suggesting to Bu Castro to revise some guidelines because some of them are already outdated and were written since the '70s."

In keeping with her medical company's vision to bring in the latest advancements in beauty technology and techniques, Belo introduces more treatments in her clinics. The other branches are in Makati, Alabang, Tektite in Ortigas Center and Tomas Morato in Quezon City.

When she was in Paris, she and her finance manager, Joey Santos, visited spa and skin clinics, where they got ideas about new treatments in Europe.

The Aptos Thread revolutionizes the facelift process by making it seamless, without surgery or leaving any scars. Dr. Sulamanidze from Russia started the technique using threads as thin as hair, with tiny microscopic teeth that grad on to the underside of the skin to lift the fallen cheek to its ideal position.

New treatments

Belo says the process gets rid of deep lines that extends from the side of the nose to the moth and jaw. Aptos Thread can also tighten a loose jaw and lift a sagging brow. The procedure takes less than an hour to do and leaves the patient without any bandages or scars after the session.

The Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) is the answer to aging, sagging and sun-damaged skin. Age spots, unwanted blood vessels and wrinkles are zapped with a gentle light energy. At least IPL five sessions are required and the treatment is done once every three weeks.

"IPL rejuvenates and refreshes the skin without any tell-tale signs," Belo says. "It helps restore the skin's youthful look."

Some show biz personalities who swear by IPL are Zsa Zsa Padilla and Edu Manzano. Edu thinks the process is perfect for men because it's simple, quick and there are no complicated creams to apply after.

The innovative "clear light" therapy, meanwhile, gets rid of pimples in 20 minutes through a beam of light. The Belo Medical Group is the first to introduce this technology in the Philippines.

Belo attests even teenage kids can undergo this painless and hassle-free treatment, which can also cure acne. A total of 10 sessions is required.

Belo believes women spend a major part of their income to make themselves look better. She says female executives shell out an average of P10,000 to P15,000 a month for the parlor, dermatologist or the gym.

"Before, women spent for beauty treatments because they want their spouses to appreciate them," Belo says. "Maybe their husbands were fooling around. But now, I noticed that women do it primarily for themselves. They want to look good and feel better."

Belo is aware of the emergence of other doctors who have their respective knowledge in cosmetic dermatology.

"You cannot say you're better than everybody else," Belo maintains. "I never had that kind of delusion. But instead of wasting my time trying to compete, I just focus on my business. I'm so busy making the Belo Medical Group grow."

If they won't buy your good, use it yourself

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FRED Reyes of Chemworld Marketing Corp. was ecstatic when he stumbled upon the Japanese formulation for licorice extract in 1995.

Japanese scientists isolated certain compounds in licorice that were shown to have powerful whitening properties, potent anti-oxidants and could even control acne and block ultraviolet rays.

With such properties from a natural source, Reyes thought the big local manufacturers of skin care products that source their ingredients from him would snap up the product.

He was wrong.

Chemworld peddled the licorice extract to the different big manufacturers but they were not interested at that time mainly because it was too expensive. Who could blame them when the 40 percent licorice extract cost P1 million a kilo in today's prices compared to only P300 a kilo for hydroquinone, the main whitening ingredient used by whitening products.

FRED Reyes and wife Carleen

Reyes, who is a chemist by profession, did not give up just yet. He commissioned an independent team of scientists from the University of the Philippines to test the whitening properties of licorice extract, particularly the compound Glabridin. The team came back with the result that licorice extract could visibly whiten skin in only seven days.

Reyes went back to the manufacturers with the result but they were still not interested. He, however, believed in the product so much that he decided to use it himself and produce his own line of skin care products. That decision marked the birth of Godiva Inc.

"I was encouraged because dermatologists were interested in our product. They started to use it for their own products so we knew that there was a demand out there. I thought then that if the industry did not want it then we will do it ourselves," Reyes says in an interview.

Godiva had the advantage because Chemworld is the largest importer of skin care ingredients in the Philippines as well as formulations. Over time it has developed a library of effective formulas which became the foundation of Godiva's natural skincare product line.

Reyes knew that he was running a risk because he would effectively be competing against his clients but he thought the benefits of producing a different line of skin care products far outweighed the risks.

Godiva, however, decided to position itself in the high end of the natural skin care market so that it would not directly compete with its clients. Chemworld has also maintained its responsibility with its clients to keep their trade secrets.

Godiva was put up with the mission to create skin care products designed to treat specific skin care concerns. Godiva looked at the market and saw that most skin care firms' products were for general application, not so much for therapeutic purposes. Godiva decided to go for the latter.

Godiva's first products were the whitening line using purified licorice extract. Its products were at least three times more expensive than the competition but it immediately generated a following from those who were willing to pay the price to treat skin discoloration.

Studies show that licorice extract purified up to 40 percent for its glabridin content is the most powerful whitening contraction. It is 10 times more powerful than Vitamin C, 16 times more effective than melawhite and 30 times more active than Kojic acid.

From whitening products, Godiva moved on to other products such as fruit acid exfoliating cream with Alpha Hydroxy Acid, anti-blemish products for acne-prone skin, Green Tea products with anti-oxidants and Squalane anti-skin stress lotion.

Reyes says Godiva used only natural products in its skin care line in keeping with the name Godiva, which is a Greek word that means "gift from God." That the name also refers to a famous naked woman was just a happy accident.

"We are happy with our products because we only used the best natural active ingredients that we could find. We are proud of not adulterating our products," Reyes says.

Godiva is proud that its Filipino-made products could match the quality of the so-called super premium designer brands such as Christian Dior, Shiseido and Clinique but at a lesser price.

Sir Greenspan? Fed chief adds knighthood to honors

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan will soon share something in common with luminaries such as rock star Mick Jagger, Persian Gulf War Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and former US President Ronald Reagan—honorary British knighthood.

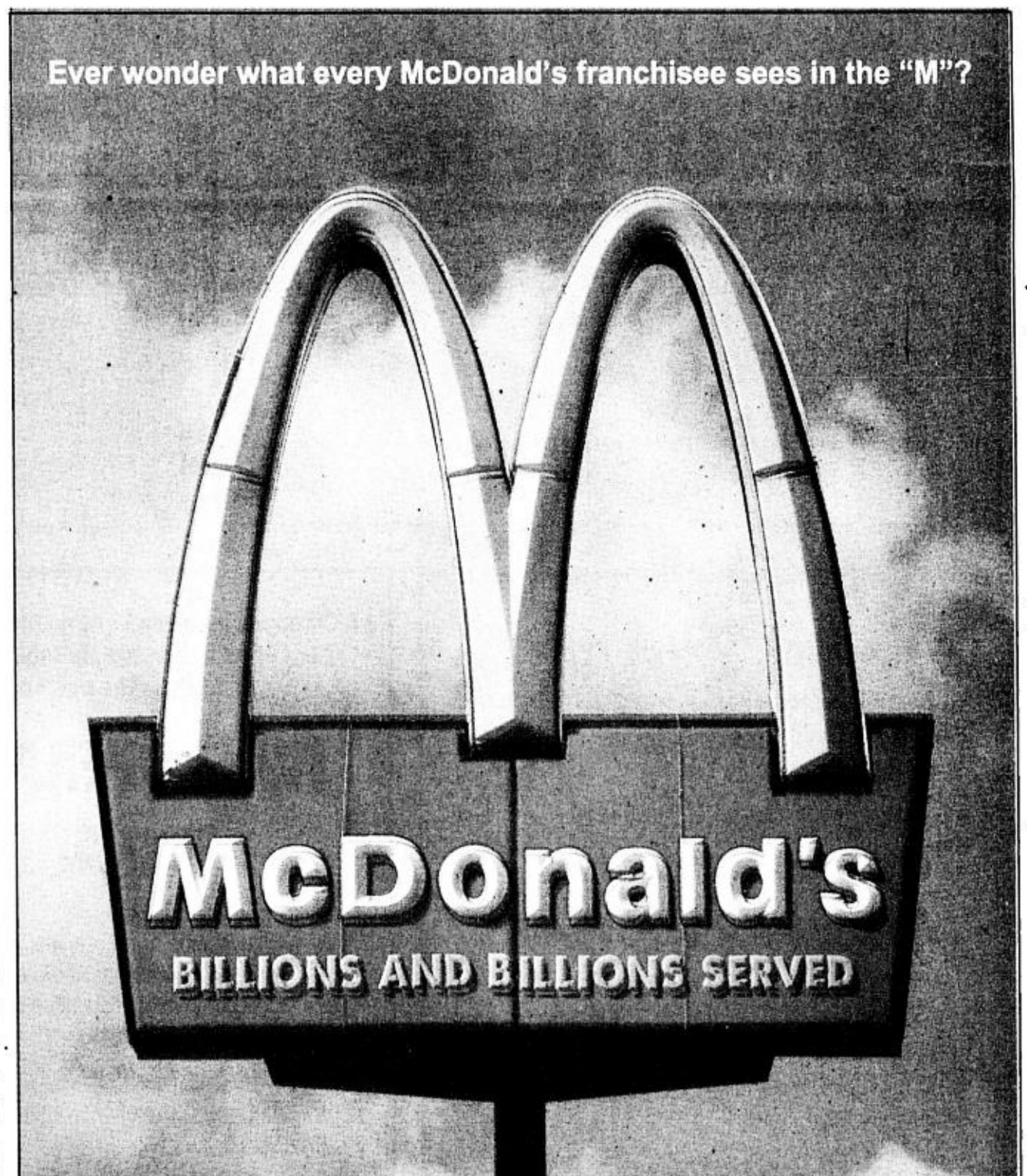
The British Treasury announced on Tuesday that Queen Elizabeth had approved granting the honor to Greenspan, who has led the US central bank since August 1987.

"The award is in recognition of his outstanding contribution to global economic stability and the benefit that . . . (Britain) has received from the wisdom and skill with which he has led the US Federal Reserve Board," according to press release issued by the British Treasury.

In a statement, Greenspan said, "I am most privileged to accept this honor. I have valued my close relationships with the Bank of England and with many Chancellors of the Exchequer, going back nearly 30 years."

Unlike Rolling Stone front man Mick Jagger, who was knighted in June, Greenspan, as an American admitted to an order of British chivalry, will not be called "Sir" but instead will be entitled to place the letters "KBE" after his name.

Greenspan will formally receive the award when he next visits Britain. ***Reuters***



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PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FINANCIAL ANALYST

A Client Bank with a strong international focus is looking for finance professionals who would be tasked primarily to develop and structure a corporate rating/performance evaluation system for its expanding asset portfolio. Prospects should possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Male - Undergraduate degree in Business, Accounting or Economics and preferably an MBA;
- Ten to Fifteen years professional experience in financial/ economic analysis and thoroughly familiar with ratio analysis, time - series analysis/forecasting and with the various tools of financial decision-making;
- Strong analytical, communication both written and verbal, and interpersonal skills;
- Work exposure in the area of loan syndications, project finance, credit analysis and/or account supervision.

Client Bank offers a very pleasant work environment and competitive salary package. Qualified candidates may send their CVs with photo to:

Recruitment Officer
EuroCredit Cooperative
Rm 306 Sunrise Centre
488 Pablo Ocampo Street
Malate, Manila

NOTE: ***This is an urgent requirement. CVs received after August 25, 2002 will not be entertained.***

Vignet®

The largest manufacturer of uPVC Windows and Doors, is in need of the following personnel:

ACCOUNTANT FOR OUR MANILA OFFICE

- BS in Accountancy Graduate / CPA
- Preferably Female not more than 38 years Old
- At least 2 years experience in Accounting and Auditing
- Strong background in cash/fund management, budget and financial control/ reporting.
- Computer literate / proficient in using Microsoft Office (Excel & Word)
- English Speaking / with pleasing personality

ACCOUNTANT FOR OUR BATAAN OFFICE

- BS in Accountancy Graduate / CPA
- Preferably Female not more than 38 years old
- At least 2 years experience in Accounting and Auditing
- Strong background in cash/fund management, budget and financial control/reporting
- Computer literate / proficient in using Microsoft Office (Excel & Word)
- English Speaking / with pleasing personality

Please send resumé with 2X2 photo at :
Vignet Centre, 4th Floor, E. Rodriquez Jr. Ave., Libis Quezon City
Or E-mail your resumé at: jeanette.boyd@vignet.net
Tel No : (02) 631-2476

We're a regional marketing consulting group operating in 7 countries in Asia. We're looking for:

Senior Account Executive/ Account Manager

- Secure new clients and account servicing of major clients

Requirements:
- Degree Holder
- Minimum 2 years previous sales or marketing experience, preferably in an Advertising or market research industry, with proven track records
- Presentable and articulate

Please send your resumé with a recent photo (non-refundable) to:

The Branch Manager
2107 Cityland 10 Tower1 HV dela Costa St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City, Metro Manila
(Only shortlisted candidates will be notified)

You may also fax it at 8934916
or email us at marlyn@mmsasia.com

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

a Philippine-based social development organization proactively addressing the needs of uprooted persons and others in exceptionally difficult circumstances seeks experienced personnel for its work in Mindanao

Project Officer

- Master's degree in Education, Development Communication, or relevant Social Science Course;
- Specialization in managing basic education programmes at the community level;
- Strong leadership, management, and finance skills;
- Able to network with government and NGOs;
- Knowledgeable in development of information, education and communication materials with exceptional writing skills; and
- Excellent human relations skills and knowledgeable about development efforts in Mindanao.

Peace Education Officer

- Master's degree in Education, Mass Communication, or relevant Social Science Course;
- Specialization in Peace Education and Advocacy with relevant in Community Organizing, Disaster Management, Rural and Upland Integrated Area Development
- Excellent human relations skills and knowledgeable about peace building efforts in Mindanao;

Community Organizers

- Bachelor's degree in Social Work or Community Development;
- Relevant experience in social mobilization, basic education and training , health and nutrition, and livelihood projects;
- Knowledgeable about development issues in Mindanao.

Administrative Support Staff

- Bachelor's degree in Accountancy, Management, or related course with relevant experience in administration;
- Strong administrative and finance skills;
- Excellent interpersonal relations and exceptional technical writing skills

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Preferably residents of Mindanao, willing to be based in Cotabato City.
- Preferably speaks the local dialect of Maguindanao aside from being fluent in Cebuano or Ilonggo, Tagalog and English
- Development work experience of at least 5 years;
- At least 25 years of age;
- Computer literate or proficient with personal computer and appropriate software
- Willing to work long hours for the benefit of displaced families.

Qualified parties should send by **August 15, 2002** a letter of application and resumé to:

The Executive Director
MCC P.O. Box 2733,
Makati City
or email at: vleyson@cfsi.ph
Responses will be sent to qualified applicants only.
www.cfsi.ph

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NEEDS

TRUCKERS

To handle its heavy sales volume this Christmas Season. The units will be dispatched from Purefoods-Hormel's Marikina Plant, Navotas and Laguna Depot for deliveries to Greater Manila Area (GMA) and Luzon Provincial Areas (LPA).

Other Relevant Information:

Truck Type	:	AUV/Trucks (1.0 - 4.0 tons capacity)
Body Type	:	Refrigerated/Insulated/Closed Vans
Contract Period	:	November 02, 2002 - December 31, 2002

For particulars, please call or visit:

FOR MARIKINA PLANT	FOR LAGUNA DEPOT
PERRY C. RUTAQUIO	ERNESTO S. GANA

at the following address and telephone numbers:

PUREFOODS-HORMEL COMPANY, INC.
. Barrio San Roque, Marikina City
Telephone Nos. 645-3251 to 55 Local 256, 257, 258, 340
FAX Numbers 645-4535 and 645-3324

******OUR COMPANY IS IN NEED OF A HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES WHO CAN FILL UP THIS POSITION******

ACCOUNT QUALITY SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:
- Male, less than 35 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- Must have feasible achievement in production improvement
- Must have at least 5 years experience in quality control
- Have a thorough knowledge in Quality Engineering and Management
- Familiar with problem Solving and Failure Analysis

Requirements:
- ☐ Updated Resumé with recent photo
- ☐ Diploma, Transcript of Records
- ☐ Birth Certificate
- ☐ Employment Certificate

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉ TO:

Wistron
Wistron InfoComm (Phils.) Corp.
Building #1 20 Angelwin Highway
Cabs Point, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
Telephone nos.: 63 (47) 252 7740 to 50 Local
Facsimile no.: 63 (47) 252 6225

Account Executive

- Veterinary Studies graduate
- 20 to 24 years old
- Can drive, must have driver's license

Telemarketers/ Account Executive

- Veterinary Studies graduate an advantage
- College graduate of any business course will also be accepted
- Must be familiar with different dogs' breed
- 20 to 24 years old
- Can speak fluent in English
- Computer literate

Graphic Artist/ Visual Merchandiser

- 20 to 24 years old
- Graduate of Fine Arts or other related courses
- Must be proficient in Graphic Softtware
- Bring sample work

Interested applicants must bring resumé with picture at:

3rd Floor, No. 18, Kamuning Road,
Quezon City

For interview schedule:
(Tuesday) August 13 & (Wednesday) August 14, 2002
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

A Company involved in Agricultural Development has an immediate requirement to fill in the position of:

FARM OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Male, 35 to 40 years old
- Agriculturist / Agri-Engineer
- Must have substantial experience
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- With at least 3-5 years work related experience
- Good interpersonal skills

Please send your comprehensive resumé with your latest passport size picture to:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
Attn: Recruitment Head
c/o BOX NO. KA-027-02 FM
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
G/F Trinity Building, 636 T.M. Kalaw Street
Ermita, Manila

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2 SALES EXEC'S to Scandinavia Trend

The m/f we are looking for have: Good command of English, good sales skills and good looks. You have an interest in and knowledge of design, and you have a professional attitude about your work. *We will prefer a graduate of Interior Design with AUTOCAD background.*
We offer you: A professional environment and training in the best designs from Scandinavia. The job is fulltime with a basic salary and an added commission based on sales. The basic salary will be adjusted after 6 months according to skills and results.
Job start: 1 September 2002
Please send your CV, cover letter and picture to:
gitte@scandinavian-trend.com
Interviews start at **20 August 2002**

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES

Conservation International - Philippines (CIP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of the Earth's ecosystem and biodiversity. The CI Philippine program focuses on two important biodiversity corridors in the country - the Sierra Madre mountain range of Northern Luzon and the forests and marine ecosystem of Palawan. Conservation International Philippines is in need of:

Population Environment (PE) Project Manager

The PE Project Manager will manage a long-term demographic analysis of population trends in Philippines conservation priority areas.

Work description:
The position entails the following:
- Consultations and networking with relevant institutions
- Organizing and conducting a series of demographic workshops to determine demographic indicators and secondary data sources most useful in analyzing the demographic dimension of 206 delineated conservation priority areas
- Collation of secondary data
- Coordination of encoding activities with technical staff
- Presentation of research results

The PE Project Manager's role and responsibilities are expected to grow as the PE Program expands to include a variety of other PE projects at the national and corridor (regional) level.

Minimum qualifications:
- BA in demographics or related field, MA preferred
- At least two years experience in relevant NGO project management
- At least two years experience in demographic research, data collection and analysis
- Strong connections with Philippine population and environment government bodies, NGOs, and donor agencies
- Understanding of Population and Environment (PE) linkages and interactions
- Interest in environmental conservation
- Writing and speaking skills

Interested applicants can submit their application letter with comprehensive resumé no later than **August 16, 2002.**

Human Resources Department
Conservation International
#5 South Lawin, Philam Homes
Quezon City
or email: allanve@csi.com.ph

Only short listed applicants will be notified. No phone calls.

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

A foreign assistance organization has an immediate need for an ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN. The incumbent will be responsible for a range of professional accounting duties in the processing, analyzing and reconciling accounting transactions. He/she will be responsible for the organization's financial accounting and reports. In relation to this, the incumbent will participate and coordinate with respective offices for financial policy matters and implementation plans and activities. Completion of college degree in accounting or bookkeeping is required. From 3 to 4 years of progressively responsible experience in accounts maintenance, bookkeeping or closely related accounting technician work for a foreign assistance organization. The ability to comprehend and to properly apply to the accounting process the various and detailed technical program regulations, terms and conditions. A good command of both written and oral English is essential. Typing level 1 (less than 40 words per minute) and experience in the operation of a computerized accounting system is essential. The ability to effectively use MS Word, Excel is required.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, **not later than August 16, 2002**, to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

URGENT RECRUITMENT

A project funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and implemented by the Supreme Court of the Philippines on establishing baseline data on access to justice by the disadvantaged, is in search of a qualified individual for the post of **PROJECT OFFICER** to be based at the Supreme Court, Manila and reporting directly to the Program Director of the Program Management Office.

Salary is gross 30,000 pesos per month.

Duration of Employment: 1 September 2002 to 31 December 2002

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Assist the Program Director and the PMO Focal Person for UNDP Projects in the timely implementation of the above-cited project including, but not limited to, the preparation of financial and project reports, monitoring and evaluation, consistent with national execution guidelines;
2. Coordinate with government, non-government, external consultants, UNDP and other partner organizations in the implementation of the project;
3. Ensure the effective financial management of the project including budgeting and documentation, both at the project and partner organization levels; and
4. Other tasks that may be required.

Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree in Political Science, Economics, Management and other relevant courses; at least five years experience in project management, with proven technical and administrative skills, preferably connected to Judicial Reform; excellent written and oral communication skills in both English and Filipino; and proficiency in the use of various software applications such as MS Word, Excel, etc.

All application letters and comprehensive resume should reach our office on or before 16 August 2002. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or PO Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), Tel. Nos. (632) 892-0611 to 25 ext. 237 / 275, Fax Nos. (632) 8160461; 893-9598; E-mail address: bc_admin.ph@undp.org

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Ms. Nancy Orozco
McDonald's Dagupan
6F CSI Market Square
ABF Avenue, Dagupan City
Pangasinan 2400

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A Distributor for a multinational, fast moving consumer goods company is in need for qualified Van and Booking Salesmen that will sell its product to wholesale and retail trade (market stalls, sari-sari, groceries, supermarket) as part of its distribution expansion in GMA.

(2) BOOKING SALESMEN - GMA
(8) VAN SALESMEN - GMA

Qualifications:

- ✓ At least Second Year College
- ✓ Must have a Valid Driver's License
- ✓ Experience an advantage

Apply in person with your resumé or bio-data and NBI, Police Clearance on Monday to Wednesday, **August 12 to 14, 2002** at:

103-A P. Tuazon Street, Cubao, Quezon City
or call Ms. Vangie Balleras or Jinky Arcos
Tel. Nos. 721-3867; 721-3869

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OSHC OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER
North Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City Tel 929-6036 to 39

NOTICE OF VACANT POSITIONS

(1) ENGINEER II

SG-16 (P14,098.00); Item No. 73-2; RA1080; Bachelor's degree in Engineering relevant to the job; one (1) year of relevant experience; four (4) hours of relevant training.

(1) ASSISTANT INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST

SG-8 (P8,709.00); Item No. 85; CS-Sub Professional; Completion of two (2) years studies in college; (1) year of relevant experience; four (4) hours of relevant training.

(1) CLERK III

SG-6 (P7,606.00); Item No. 77; CS-Sub Professional; Completion of two (2) years studies in college; training and experience not required.

NOTE: Incomplete requirements will not be processed.

Requirements: Comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 picture
CSC Eligibility / Board Rating
Transcript of Records (Certified True Copy)
Diploma (Certified True Copy)
Certificate of Trainings Attended
Certificate of Employment (If applicable)

Send Resumé to:

The Office of the Executive Director, Occupational Safety and Health Center, North Avenue corner Science Road, Diliman, Quezon City or through e-mail: oshcenter@oshc.dole.gov.ph. Deadline for submission is on 15 August 2002.

WRIGLEY *PHILIPPINES INC.*

Makers of the leading chewing gum products, a world- class multi-national consumer manufacturing company is in need of

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With the following qualifications.

- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Minimum of 3 years Sales experience in Key Account Management ideally in fast moving consumer goods
- Has a good presentation and problem solving skills
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint)

MERCHANDISING SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Minimum of 3-years Sales experience and 2 years in Sales Management
- Has a good presentation skills
- Analytical, good coordination abilities, people and project-oriented
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint)

Wrigley Philippines Inc. offers a competitive remuneration and benefits package. If you fit the above qualifications, we invite you to send your resume immediately with your transcript of records and one passport size picture to:

People, Learning & Development Department
Wrigley Philippines Inc.
P.O. Box No. 1857 MCPO
1258 Makati City

or email your application to tsabangan@wrigley.com

Please note: We shall call only qualified applicants for exams and interview.

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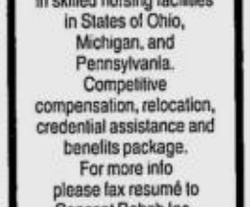
Relocation to the United States!

Excellent full time employment opportunities for PT's and OT's in skilled nursing facilities in States of Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. Competitive compensation, relocation, credential assistance and benefits package. For more info please fax resumé to Concept Rehab Inc., at 419-843-4158, Attn: Kristie Stewart, phone 800-297-1194, ext. 120 or e-mail kristie@granitecircle.com

WANTED LICENSED MEDTECH

Submit resumé to:
ANINON DRUGSTORE
19 Luna Street, Poblacion
San Pedro, Laguna
Look for Dr. DJ Aninon



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Sr. ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Graduate of any related course, preferably has own accounts, with vast contacts and has experience in dealing with Ad agencies. Must be computer literate, hardworking, highly personable and confident in dealing with people.

ADMIN / MAINTENANCE STAFF
Male, 28-35 years old; graduate in any voc. course in Electrical or Mechanical field; must be flexible; willing to be supervised; working knowledge in pneumatics technology, automotive and/or refrigeration is preferred; can also assist in all Electrical & Mechanical works, such as repair of compressor, water pump, operation of generator. Also willing to perform some sundry function like running errands on technical matters from time to time.

Interested applicants must send their resumé, 2x2 colored picture and transcript of records..

2275 P. Burgos St. Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 831-7549/831-9668/831-0429

We need immediately!

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- Knowledgeable in basic computer/office software operation

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- Graduate of a 4 year course preferably with emphasis on Marketing or Mass Communication
- Knowledge of marketing principles and strategies
- Knowledge of basic computer operations

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- College graduate major in Journalism, English or Mass Communication
- 1 year experience in similar or related job
- Computer skills, communication skills, writing skills, encoding skills, research skills, filing skills
- Knowledge of basic computer operations

COLLECTION CLERK

- College graduate preferably with background in Finance or Accounting
- 1 year experience in collection work or similar field
- Licensed motorcycle driver (with professional driver's license, restrictions 1 & 2)

DESKMAN

- College graduate
- At least 2 years experience in this job or jobs leading to it
- With special training in technical aspect of production layouting
- Knowledge of computer operations

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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The public is hereby informed that **SCRABBLE®** is a trademark owned by and registered in the name of J. W. Spear & Sons Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mattel, Inc. The **SCRABBLE®** trademark is registered under Certificate of Registration No. 52101 issued by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines. Also, **RAINBOW SCRABBLE®** and **JUNIOR SCRABBLE®** are registered under Philippine Trademark Registration Nos. 4-1995-101371 and 4-1995-101372, respectively, and are trademarks owned solely and exclusively by J. W. Spear & Sons Limited.

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When used under proper license and in connection with the popular WORLD-BUILDING BOARDGAME, the trademark **SCRABBLE®** indicates the source, origin and quality that follows the strict quality standards for all toys and games manufactured or licensed by J.W. Spear & Sons Limited and Mattel, Inc.

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MATTEL

J.W. Spear & Sons Limited
Mattel House, Vanwall Business Park,
Vanwall Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire,
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MATTEL, INC.

By Counsel, FEDERIS & ASSOCIATES Law Offices

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A Multinational Engineering Servicing the Oilfields, Shipping, Mining, Power Generation and Industrial Sector urgently need:

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- **With great knowledge in repair services like**
  a. **Machine shop**
  b. **Welding fabrication**
  c. **Electro Plating**
  d. **In Situ repairs and overhauls**
- **Reside within Dasmariñas Cavite**

We offer excellent career opportunities for the right candidates, competitive conditions of employment and fringe benefits including training and development. Salary commensurate to experience.

This is an urgent requirement! Application letter with comprehensive resumé and recent passport size photograph to be sent to:

HRD DEPARTMENT
VAN DER HORST TECHNOLOGIES PHILS., INC.
First Cavite Industrial Estate (FCIE)
Langcaan, Dasmariñas Cavite
Or Mail to P.O. Box 4278 MCPO

NEW LIFELINE, INC.

15 years old Human Resources Company with offices in New York, Los Angeles and Philippines will be expanding in other states in U.S.A. Mr. Alex de Venecia, the President and Founder of New Lifeline, Inc. is in town and announces the opening for the following opportunities:

Investors/Co.-Venturer

- get involved in the recruitment of healthcare, other professionals and staffing business in America
- this will be a profitable business and chance to have L1 / Investors Visa

Marketing/Business Developer

- hands-on experience in securing accounts in the placement of personnels in England, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and USA.
- employment agency or visa assistance experience a plus.
- stock options to the right person.

Interested applicants and investors, please send your comprehensive resumé with photo in confidence to:

Mr. Alex De Venecia
President - New Lifeline, Inc.
Rm #402 Jade Bldg., #71 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City
(Fronting UERM Hospital)
Tel. Nos.: 715-0221/7151105
Cell: (0917) 811-2884 / (0917) 349-1475
Email: devenecia718493@yahoo.com / docrdv@aol.com

TEACHERS NEEDED

- ☑ Starting monthly salary of more than P100,000.00 pesos
- ☑ Must have at least 3-5 years of teaching experience in high school
- ☑ Only those with Major in Science, Math and Special Education should apply.

Send resumé and inquiries to email address:
nthink@att.net

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The National Food Authority (NFA) is inviting all palay Farmers' Organizations (FOs), Farmers' Cooperatives (FCs), Farmers' Associations (FAs) and Federation of Palay Farmers' Group (FPFGs) to participate in the distribution of imported rice under the **"FARMERS as DISTRIBUTORS"** (FAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture -- National Food Authority/Philippine International Trading Corporation.

All interested parties are advised to accomplish and submit a Letter of Intent (LOI), sample of which is shown as Exhibit 1, within five (5) days after the last day of publication, to the NFA Provincial Offices in their respective areas.

For details, they may coordinate with the nearest NFA Office in their respective areas. For Metro Manila, they may directly visit or call our NCR Office located at United Nations Avenue, Paco, Manila, with telephone nos. 563-9451, 563-8717 and 563-9454.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R.A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI - August 7, 9 & 11, 2002)

Exhibit 1

LETTER OF INTENT

LOI# _____

I/We _____, with business address
(name of cooperative)
at _____ would like to participate in the Farmers As Distributor (FAD), Program of the Department of Agriculture -- National Food Authority (NFA) / Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC). Specifically, we would like to avail of _____ bags of rice to be withdrawn in
(quality)
_____ from _____ to _____, 2002
(withdrawal point) *(withdrawal period)*

The NFA however, reserves the right to adjust the volume to be allocated to the farmers' group and likewise, the withdrawal points depending upon what is available and other factors.

Attached are the following documents to support the approval of our application.

1. Certified Photocopy of Certificate of Registration from _____ dated _____.
2. Financial Statement as of _____, duly audited by an external Accountant/Auditor.
3. Original copy of Board Resolution # _____ dated _____ series of _____ signifying our intention to participate in the program and authorizing _____ and/or _____ _____ as our representative to transact business with NFA.

_____
President/Chairman

To be filled-up by NFA
Date/Time Received: _____
By : _____

Checklist
- ☐ Certified Photocopy of Certificate of Registration
- ☐ Audited Financial Statement
- ☐ Original Copy of Board Resolution -- to participate and to authorize representative
- ☐ Grains Business License
  - ☐ Retailing
  - ☐ Wholesaling
  - ☐ Warehousing
  - ☐ Transporting

Basic Information
- Allowable Volume in bags for purchase per month _____ *(not to exceed 5,000)*
- Networth (bags equivalent)_____

Certified Correct:

Provincial Market Development Officer

Provincial Accountant

Provincial Registration & Licensing Officer

Provincial Operations Officer/ Assistant Provincial Manager

Approved/Disapproved:

Provincial Manager / Officer-In-Charge

Send your resumés instantly.

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Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF TARLAC
Province of Tarlac
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

ADB Loan No. & Title: Loan No. 1658-PHI, Clark Area Municipal Development Project

Contract Title: **DETAILED ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION CONSULTANCY FOR THE CAMDP SUBPROJECT OF TARLAC CITY**

1. The City of Tarlac is one of the six (6) Local Government Units (LGU) who are beneficiaries of the loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), under the Clark Area Municipal Development Project (CAMDP). Part of the loan shall be relent to the mentioned LGU, through the Department of Finance (DOF)/ Municipal Development Fund Office (MDFO), to partially finance the cost of DETAILED ENGINEERING and CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION for the CAMDP subprojects of Tarlac City as listed below. The eligibility rules and procedures of the Asian Development Bank will govern the bidding/hiring process.

Contract Package	Subproject No.	Subproject Description
South Eastern Bypass Road	T1	Construction of 800m x 7.3m carriageway with 2x1m shoulders and drainage. A 2x1m box culvert will also be constructed to discharge existing outfall downstream.
Mac Arthur Highway to Masalasa Creek Drainage Channel	T3	Construction of 4.2 km of covered and open drainage channels adjacent to main roads and provision of riprap protection along the critical sections of Masalasa creek.
Southern Bypass Road	T5	Construction of 700m x 7.3m carriageway with verges and drainage channels, and acquisition of right of way.

2. Eligible and suitably experienced firms wishing to offer their services may submit their letter of intent and prequalification documents properly labeled as "PREQUALIFICATION FOR DETAILED ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF TARLAC CITY SUBPROJECTS UNDER CAMDP".
3. The Prequalification Documents, in the English language, may be obtained by interested Consulting Firms upon submission of a written application to the address below. The document will be sent by courier service or may be picked up. The last day of issuance of the Prequalification documents shall be on **August 19, 2002**. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
4. Prequalification Documents must be submitted to the address below on or before **August 26, 2002, 17:00 hour**. Late submission shall be rejected.
5. The City of Tarlac will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by interested consulting firms in connection with the preparation or delivery of Proposals. Moreover, it reserves the right to reject any or all proposals without offering any reason, waive any required formality contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the City Government. Additionally, The City of Tarlac does not guarantee that an award will be made. The decision of PEAC (Tarlac City) is final and binding.
6. The Prequalification, Evaluation and Award Committee (PEAC) Secretariat of the City of Tarlac is in the following address:

The CHAIRMAN
Pre-Qualification, Evaluation, and Award Committee (PEAC) Secretariat
Office of the City Mayor
2nd Floor City Hall Building
City of Tarlac
Philippines

Telephone: (045) 982-0190; Facsimile number: (045) 982-0692

(Sgd.) **GENARO M. MENDOZA**
City Mayor & PEAC Chairman

(PDI--Aug. 11 & 16, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

SEC ADVISORY

July 30, 2002

The Commission wishes to inform the public that the Compliance and Enforcement Department (5th Floor, SEC Bldg., EDSA, Ortigas, Mandaluyong City, FAX: 7248709) is now in the process of compiling and documenting a list of investors/creditors in connection with the ongoing case involving **GLASGOW CREDIT AND COLLECTION SERVICES, INC. ("GLASGOW")**.

In connection with this, the concerned public is hereby advised to submit photocopies of any document evidencing obligations due from **GLASGOW**, or which in anyway may be attributable thereto, to the Compliance and Enforcement Department.

This procedure is necessary in order to assist the Commission in verifying the accuracy of the number of investors/creditors and the total amount collected from the public, and thereby facilitating our representation with the relevant authorities.

Our offices will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Deadline will be on **August 16, 2002**.

For guidance and information.

(PDI - Aug. 11, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN
Tuguegarao City

ADVERTISEMENT

The Provincial Government of Cagayan with office address at Capitol, Alimannao Hills, Tuguegarao City, is interested in purchasing, through public bidding, the following Engineering Equipment:

1) 25 units reconditioned Dump Truck (Isuzu), with double differential, floating cab, from 295-330 HP and 2,800 RPM
2) 01 unit reconditioned Prime Mover/Tractor Head (Isuzu), with double differential floating cab, from 380-390 HP and 2,500 RPM
3) 01 unit reconditioned Truck Mounted Crane with 2 engines
   a. Truck Side-Japan engine, (Hino, Fuso, Nissan) double differential, floating cab, 295-330 HP and 2800 RPM
   b. Crane Side-Japan engine, mechanical lattice boom, 120-130 HP, 80 ft. 35 tons
4) 01 unit reconditioned Low Bed, front loading, 35-40 tons
5) 01 unit reconditioned Diesel Pile Hammer, Deimag D25-32, 2,500 kgs., 78,970-39,975 Newton Meter
6) 02 units reconditioned generator set
   a. 30 KVA, diesel-fed, with 1 set panel board and complete with operational gauges, 3 phase, 60 cycle, 220/110 output and skid mounted
   b. 50 KVA, diesel-fed, with 1 set panel board and complete with complete operational gauges, 3 phase, 60 cycle, 220/110 output and skid mounted.
7) 02 units reconditioned dump truck - 10 wheeler ISUZU 10 PCI with double differential, floating 295-330 hp, 2,800 rpm
8) 01 unit reconditioned dump truck 6 wheeler, power steering FUSO, 6d15, 200 HP, 2800 RPM

For more information, interested parties may contact Engr. Gaspar Taquiqui at Provincial Equipment Pool Office, Capitol, Tuguegarao City or call Telephone No. (078) 844-1266.

Interested bidders must be pre-qualified. Deadline for pre-qualification is **August 18, 2002.**

Specifications and bid forms may be secured from the General Services Office, Capitol Hills, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, from **August 19-23, 2002**, upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of seven thousand pesos (P7,000.00).

Pre-bid conference will be held on **August 27, 2002**. Sealed bid proposals must be submitted to the Provincial Bids and Awards Committee not later than 9:30 a.m. on **September 03, 2002.**

The Provincial Government reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, waive any defects or formalities therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Provincial Government.

(Sgd.) **EDGAR RAMONES LARA**
Governor
Chairman, Provincial Committee on Bids & Awards

(PDI - Aug. 11, 12 & 13, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Science Education Institute
Shaping the Future Now

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Science Education Institute (SEI) is inviting interested local licensed electrical contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid and to participate in the public bidding for the project:

Upgrading of the Electrical System of the Third and Fourth (Deck) Floor of the PTRI Building Occupied by the Science Education Institute (Included Labor and Materials)

Bid documents can be obtained from the General Services Unit (GSU), Finance and Administrative Division (FAD), Room 318, Science Education Institute, 3rd Floor PTRI Building, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM starting **16 August 2002**. Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements on sealed envelopes with bidder's signature across the envelope cover is not later than **23 August 2002** from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A pre-bid conference shall be conducted on **29 August 2002**, 10:00 AM, at the SEI Conference Room, 3rd Floor PTRI Building, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Sealed bid proposals shall be received by the SEI-BAC on **06 September 2002** until 10:00 AM at the SEI Conference Room after which the bid proposals shall be publicly opened in the presence of the attending bidders.

The SEI reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or part thereof, to waive any defect contained therein and to accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ESTER B. OGENA**
Director

(PDI--Aug. 10, 11 & 12, 2002)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
Responding Through Responsible Gaming

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 02-06-2002

In lieu of our publications dated **February 16-18, 2002** at The Philippine Star and Today, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all authorized/legitimate firms engaged in the tailoring business in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Project : Supply & Delivery
Uniform Vest for Table Supervisors

Approved Budget : Seventeen Million Five Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand Ten Pesos (P17,594,010.00)

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR may be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Division (SRED), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance from **August 7, 2002 to August 30, 2002** at the BAC Secretariat Unit (BSU), PPD, 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita Manila, Tel. No. 523-2296, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00)**. In order to secure the documents, interested bidders should primarily submit a **Letter of Intent** to the BSU **not later than 5:00 p.m., August 27, 2002.**

Pre-Bid Conference : September 13, 2002 (10:00 a.m.)
Submission of Bids : September 30, 2002 (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon)
Opening of Bids : September 30, 2002 (2:00 p.m.)

PAGCOR has the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract for any justifiable reason including among others, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officers or employees of the agency or the BAC and any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders and third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures *(Executive Order 40, Sec. 29)*.

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO**
Chairperson, BAC-3

(PDI - Aug. 11 & 18, 2002)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
Responding Through Responsible Gaming

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB No. 05-18-2002

In lieu of our publications dated May 25 & 27, 2002 at Philippine Daily Inquirer and Today, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all authorized dealers or distributors of firearms in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Project : Supply & Delivery
124 Units Glock 17 Pistols

Approved Budget : Five Million Four Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Pesos (P5,456,000.00)

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR may be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Division (SRED), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance from **July 31, 2002** to **August 23, 2002** at the BAC Secretariat Unit (BSU), PPD, 2nd Floor, PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita Manila, Tel. No. 523-2296, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00)**. In order to secure the documents, interested bidders should primarily submit a **Letter of Intent** to the BSU **not later than 5:00 p.m., August 20, 2002.**

Pre-Bid Conference : September 6, 2002 (10:00 a.m.)
Submission of Bids : September 23, 2002 (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon)
Opening of Bids : September 23, 2002 (2:00 p.m.)

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract for any justifiable reason including among others, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officers or employees of the agency or the BAC and any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders and third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures *(Executive Order 40, Sec. 29)*.

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO**
Chairperson, BAC-4

(PDI - Aug. 4 & 11, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF FISHERIES & AQUATIC RESOURCES
Regional Office No. 4
2nd Floor, ICC Building, NIA Complex
EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION FOR NGOs TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office No. IV invites Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) to prequalify and bid for services to implement community organizing work in the following bays under the Income Diversification Component of the Fisheries Resource Management Project (FRMP).

BAY	PROVINCE	MUNICIPALITIES
Ragay Gulf	Quezon	Buenavista, Guinayangan, Tagkawayan
Honda Bay	Palawan	Puerto Princesa City

NGOs that are to be considered for prequalification preferably should have at least five years relevant experience on community organizing for livelihood development and coastal resource management in the provinces and areas mentioned above.

The general scope of work involves organization work to establish community-based organizations; continuing assistance to the community organizations to build up membership and develop leadership and capability in undertaking coastal resource management and micro-enterprise activities; and assistance in FRMP implementation at local levels.

Amount the specific activities to be undertaken by the selected NGO includes:

1. Strengthening of fisherfolk associations and other self-help groups in the coastal communities to engage in income diversification and micro-enterprise activities:
2. Initiation of primary cooperatives to essentially become multi-purpose cooperatives, giving more attention to complementation of water-based and land based activities;
3. Assist BFAR in the conduct of education and training that is focused in mobilizing the organizational capability of their cooperatives to access external opportunities and potentials towards empowerment;
4. Assist BFAR in the conduct of LGU planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of various CRM concepts and best practices; and; institutionalization of such in the local development plans; and
5. Continue the unfinished scope of work by the previous contracted NGO in the said Bay.

Interested NGOs must submit notarized prequalification statements together with the required documents to the BFAR Regional Office No. IV which have jurisdiction over the areas where they are interested in working. Documents must be properly "tabbed" to correspond with each pre-qualification requirement and should be received not later than 5:00 PM on August 31, 2002. Attention: The Chairperson, Prequalification, Evaluation and Awards Committee. Forms for prequalification and list of required documents may be obtained from the BFAR Regional Office No. IV.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR MS. ROSA F. MACAS
ADDRESS: 2nd Flr, ICC Bldg., NIA Road, NIA Compound, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City
CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS: 926-86-16 (Telefax); 926-19-01, 926-60-71 to 79 Local 192, 193 & 194

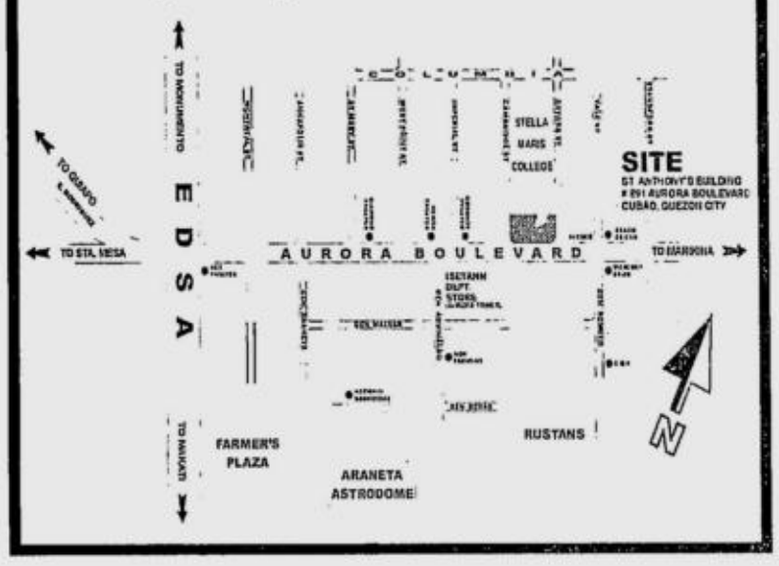
BFAR Regional Office No. IV reserves the right to reject any or all bids as well as to waive any defect or informality in the submitted bid documents. It also reserves the prerogative to accept any bid it may consider as most responsive and advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ROSA F. MACAS**
Regional Director

(PDI - August 11 & 18, 2002)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.
For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a bidding on **September 12, 2002** at 10:00 AM for the following:

Item No.	Qty/Unit	Particulars
1	647 units	Workstation, Pentium IV
2	25 units	Various Tower Type Servers
3	422 units	Dot Matrix Printer - 24 Pin
4	125 units	Dot Matrix Printer - 9 Pin
5	100 units	Color, Jet Printer
6	620 units	Uninterruptible Power Supply, 1 KVS

Subject to the submission of photocopies of the following documents (original of items 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes), bid documents obtained from the Manager I, Procurement Division III, Administrative Services Department, Room 212, Second Floor, 5-Storey Building, corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, Telephone No. 525-0041):

1) Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
2) Year 2001 Audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet & Income Statement—Minimum working capital of P2.0 Million and a networth of P4.0 Million) and latest Income Tax Return;
3) Company history/profile;
4) Two (2) sets of original product brochures;
5) Certificate of quality assurance for the product manufacturer (e.g., ISO, BVI and other reputable standard issuing authority);
6) Certification of the availability of demo units for testing/evaluation; and
7) Certification that the warranty period for the above requirements are as follows:
   Items 1 and 2 - Three (3) years; and
   Items 3 to 6 - One (1) year

Only those who submit/comply with the above requirements will be invited to attend the pre-bid conference and required to submit demo units for evaluation/testing. Bidding documents, including the detailed specifications of the subject requirement, may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

The two (2) envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defects or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

FOR THE DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE
(Sgd.) **EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS**
Director
Administrative Services Department

(PDI – Aug. 11, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the:

SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS AND SUPERVISION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) UNIT HOT WATER TREATMENT PLANT AT TARLAC

Only pre-qualified bidders as of August 28, 2002 shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held on September 26, 2002 at the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Lobby, Quezon City at 9:00 a.m.

Pre-qualification forms shall be issued starting August 9, 2002 at SRA, Quezon City and the deadline for the submission of said requirements shall be on August 23, 2002.

The list of qualified bidders shall be released on August 28, 2002. Issuance of bid tender forms shall be issued starting August 29 for a non-refundable cost of Php 700.00 each.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on September 12 at the SRA lobby at 9:00 a.m.

All bids must be accompanied by bid bonds in the amount of 2.5% of the total budget allocation - either in cash, Manager's check or GSIS bond.

For further inquiries, please call:

THE SECRETARIAT - Metro Manila
SRA Bidding and Awards Committee
Tel. No. 929-68-37

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defect therein, and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI--Aug. 9, 10 & 11, 2002)

People, Events & Products

ASEAN CHEMICAL SUMMIT SPONSOR

Du Pont Far East Inc. formalized its partnership with Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) as platinum sponsor of the forthcoming Asean Chemical Industry Club board of directors meeting and conference slated on Oct. 15 to 17 at the Edsa Shangrila Hotel. Celebrating its 200 years of manufacturing excellence, Du Pont takes an aggressive role in the conference and the responsible care program to share the company's safety culture to the chemical industry. That beyond product excellence, a safer environment should be given the thrust of the Philippines and the Asean chemical industry. Shown at the turnover ceremony are (from left) Tes L. Hernandez, president, event manager Expotrade, Edwin Umali, over-all conference chair; Ramon Abadilla, Du Pont Far East managing director for the Philippines and CPP sourcing manager for Asia Pacific, Jacinto Mantaring Jr., president, SPIK and Elenita Calar, vice president, SPIK.

New LSPPI chair elected

LAWYER Victorino delos Angeles was elected chair and chief executive officer of Legacy Scholarship Pension Plans Inc. (LSPPI) during a stockholders' meeting held recently in Quezon City.

The stockholders also elected Prime Bishop Ignacio Soliba, Lacson, Carol Hinola, Norman Tiongson, Pastor Saycon and Celso del Angeles as members of the board of directors.

LSPPI has an authorized capital of P200 million and has no trust fund deficiency based on the latest certification issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The pre-need firm recently took over management control and forged an agreement to acquire controlling interest of All Asia Plans Corp., another pre-need firm.

BSP governor LPCCI guest

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura will be the guest of honor and keynote speaker on the 8th general membership meeting of the Las Pinas Chamber of Commerce and Industry to be held at noon of Aug. 27 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City. The meeting will be attended by officials of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and of the other chapters, notably the Metro Manila Chamber and the Paranaque and Muntinlupa Chambers. LPCCI president Jesus V. Tibayan said the theme of the meeting would center on "Bankers as Chambers Business Partners". The meeting will be preceded by a presentation on Matching, Opportunities, Ventures and Exchanges by Edwin A Moran of the PPCO membership committee. PCCI president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. will deliver a speech.

FRC MALL GRAND OPENING

April Boy Regino warmed up an otherwise stormy night during the grand opening of FRC Mall July 4. 'Sayawan, Kantahan at Tugtugan' marked the launching of the newest landmark to rise in booming Bacoor, Cavite. Cuevasville Realty and Development Corp. and Living Rock headed by Lizza Villanueva -- in cooperation with Smart – staged the mini-concert which featured Angelika de la Cruz, the V7 Band, Andrew Chin Chin and 17 BoyZ Dancers.

CM STAR AWARDS

CM Star direct sales recently held its sales rally and awards ceremony at the ballroom of Manila Hotel. The company carries a wide line of products which cater to the needs of consumers ranging from fashion, beauty to health and the home. Offering business opportunities through direct selling on a part-time or full-time basis, CM Star seeks to improve people's lives by offering business and income generating activities. Personal discounts of CM Star products for network member's home consumption are a big benefit and savings in itself. CM Star consumable products range from Star Lumina Home Care Cleaners, Nutri-Blend Health drinks and food supplements, Water Purifiers, Westwood Apparell and Aromatherapy Soaps and Colognes, Derm Secret Skin Care Sets and Specialty Soaps and Laurentti 24 karat Gold and Silver Klad Jewelry. Interested distributors can call 913-9066 or 912-5667 for inquiries, or visit 86 Ninth Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City. Shown are the first trimester awardees (from left) Mary Massab-Carandang, treasurer, Carlos Teano, top SM in sales; Mr and Mrs Fetalvero, top SCO in sales, Lani Paderogao, top depot in sales and escort, and Nelson R. Carandang, president.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT SIGNING

LEISURE FARMS MOA SIGNING

Opta has agreed to set up an Organic Integrated Model farm this month. It will have a complete organic teahouse with meditation garden, a fishpond, and a vegetable garden, something farm visitors and residents will definitely enjoy. It will also put up an Opta dairy farm to demonstrate organic livestock, with Jacqui's Rizal Dairy Farm, the first organic dairy farm in the country. Leisure Farms is a 116-hectare residential farming community with healthy, porous, abundant soil on the breezy, rolling terrain in Metro Tagaytay, divided into 1000-1500-sqm farm lots. Farmers enjoy a spectacular view of Mt. Batulao and Balayan Bay. This is another project of LandCo Pacific Corp. Shown, from left, are Alby Xerez-Burgos, Leisure Farms project director, Jacqui Alleje, vice president of Opta, and Francis Ceballos, COO of LandCo Pacific Corp.

SUN, SMART IN JOINT MOBILE COMMERCE PROMO

Sun Microsystems Phils. Inc. (SunPhil) and Smart Money Holdings Corp. recently inked a general alliance agreement to jointly and globally promote Smart's unique mobile commerce platform and wireless solutions which run on the Sun platform. Shown during the signing agreement are (from left) Rosan H. Sison, SunPhil vice president and sales director; Cynthia R. Mamon, SunPhil president and managing director; Ian C. Wilson, chief executive officer, Smart Money Holdings Corp., and Alex D. Ibasco, head, Smart Mobile. Commerce Group.

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OBITUARIES

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In Memory of our Beloved

Atty. RAZON TUMBOCON-HARESCO

on her First Death Anniversary
August 11, 2002

Her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to join the family in prayer for the eternal repose of Nanay Zoning's soul.
Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Church	Celebrated By	Address	Time
August 12, 2002			
St. Peter the Apostles Parish	Most Rev. Gabriel V. Reyes, DD Bishop of Kalibo	Kalibo, Aklan	9:30 AM
August 11, 2002			
St. John the Baptist Cathedral	Rev. Father Josel Quan	Kalibo, Aklan	7:00 PM
Sto. Niño Seminary	Rev. Father Jobert Villasis	Kalibo, Aklan	9:00 AM
Sta. Rita de Casia Parish Church	Rev. Father Charles Isagan	Nalle Ibajay, Aklan	6:00 AM
St. Peter the Apostles Parish	Rev. Father Zaldy Zaradin Msgr. Nestor Nalangan	Kalibo, Aklan	7:00 AM 4:00 PM
St. Jude Parish Church	Rev. Father Marvin Baylon	Agdagao, Kalibo, Aklan	6:00 AM
Cathedral Parish of St. Nicolas of Tolentine	Most Rev. Sofio G. Balce, DD Bishop of Cabanatuan	Cabanatuan City	6:15 AM
	Most Rev. Sofronio A. Bancud, SSS, DD Auxiliary Bishop of Cabanatuan		5:00 AM 7:30 AM 8:45 AM 10:00 AM 2:30 PM 3:45 PM 5:00 PM 6:15 PM
Maria Assumpta Seminary	Concelebrated Mass	Cabanatuan City	12:00 NN
Dambana ng Ina ng Laging Saklolo	Msgr. Mike Valaria	Sangitan, Cabanatuan City	6:30 AM 8:30 AM 6:00 PM
St. Bartholomew Parish	Rev. Father Mike Adriosola	San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija	6:00 AM 7:30 PM
St. Nicolas Parish	Msgr. Jose T. Lacson	San Nicolas, Gapan Nueva Ecija	6:00 AM
Divina Pastora National Shrine	Rev. Father Regino Vigilia	Gapan, Nueva Ecija	5:30 AM 7:00 AM 5:00 PM
St. Rose of Laima	Msgr. Felix Hernandez	Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija	6:00 AM 7:30 PM
San Sebastian Cathedral	Most Rev. Florentino F. Cinense, DD Bishop of Tarlac	Tarlac City	8:00 AM
St. Ferdinand Cathedral	Most Rev. Emilio Marquez, DD Co-Adjutor Bishop of Lucena	Lucena City	8:00 AM
Christ the King Parish Church	Bishop Raul Martinez, DD	Green Meadows, Quezon City	6:00 AM
August 12, 2002			
Chapel of the Holy Souls Manila Cathedral	Rev. Father Jojo Zerrudo	Intramuros, Manila	11:00 AM
Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines Chapel	Msgr. Pedro Quitorio	Intramuros, Manila	11:30 AM

"The Lord in my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in verdant pastures. In restful waters He leads me. He refreshes my soul."

Psalm 23

Purificacion R. Perez

Widow of the late Pelayo C. Perez

February 2, 1921 - August 10, 2002

His bereaved children **LINDA, MELDEE & MONS LOPEZ, MELANIE & BOY YAPTINCHAY, JESSE & MALOU (YATCO)**; grandchildren **MONCHITO, JOWEE & SUNNY; JOEL, MARC & MIKO; ANTON, PATRICIA & CRISTINA**, sisters & brothers-in-law; **NOY & CEL REINOSO, MING & LELAND** (†) **VILLADOLID**; sisters-in-law **CONCHITA P. MONTEMAYOR, FELY C. PEREZ**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen Sanctuario De San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park and will be transferred to Alaminos, Pangasinan on Monday, August 12, 2002

Interment will be on Wednesday, August 14 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Joseph Cathedral.

In Loving Memory

On the Sixth Death Anniversary of

AMBROSIO PADILLA

On August 11, 2002

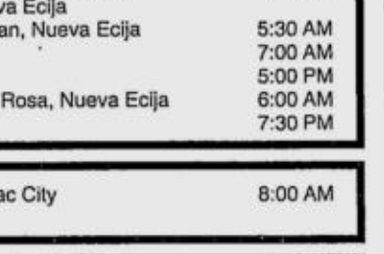
The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at 12:00 NN, ALPADI, Antipolo and at the following churches:

Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning ..... 5:15 a.m.
Sta. Cruz Parish ..... 8:00 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills ..... 6:15 p.m.
Mary the Queen Church, Greenhills ..... 7:00 a.m.
St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang ..... 6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila .. 7:00 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.
Christ the King, Green Meadows ..... 7:00 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.
St. Francis Parish, Shaw Boulevard ..... 7:00 a.m.
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo ..... 7:00 a.m.; 8:00 a.m.; 7:00 p.m.
Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace, Our Lady of Edsa ..... 7:00 p.m.
St. John the Baptist, Pinaglabanan, San Juan ..... 7:00 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park ..... 12:00 nn
St. Andrew Parish, Bel-Air ..... 9:00 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.
Basilica San Martin Tours, Taal ..... 5:30 a.m.
St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang ..... 6:00 a.m.
Benedictine Abbey, Alabang Hills ..... 6:30 p.m.
Sta. Maria Stella Orientis, CRC ..... 6:00 p.m.
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish ..... 9:30 a.m.
St. Peter & Paul Parish ..... 6:00 a.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, UP ..... 8:00 a.m.
Sta. Maria Dela Strada Parish ..... 7:30 a.m.
Ateneo Law School Rockwell Center ..... 6:00 p.m.
Immaculate Concepcion Parish, Antipolo ..... 8:00 a.m.

His children request relatives, friends and pious readers to please remember him in their prayers.

✠

We, the Family of
DENNIS V. DEL ROSARIO
October 22, 1960 – July 29, 2002



thank you for your prayers, comforting words, love and expression of concern during our moments of anxiety and bereavement. We ask you to please continue to pray for the eternal repose of the soul of our dear Dennis. Thank you once again and may the Lord Almighty bless you and your family always.

Ninica
Ardi, Brian and Macky

"Daddy never really left us.... He lives on in the way he loved, cared, shared and made us happy."

"The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want."
Psalms 23

Engr. Bernardo Catahan Ramos

of Hagonoy, Bulacan and Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Born on August 20, 1926

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 7, 2002 at the age of 75.

His loving wife **Marcia Espinoza-Ramos**
His Children: **Raul & Connie**; *Nadine, Xavier, Yurii, Joshua, Maximilian*
Renan & Imelda; *Nicole, Patricia, Tatum*
Lea & Ezra; *Bernice Anne, Richard, Carlo*
Robert & Ritzie
Romeo & Arlene; *Lauren Marie, Matthew Bernard, Daniel Alexander*
Ramon & Yen
Rene & Baby; *Camille Adeline, Miguel Lorenzo*
Ruby & Percival; *Colleen*
Sisters, relatives and friends

Request the pious readers to join them in Praising God for Tatay's life now in His bosom.

His body lies in state at **Dambana ng Ina ng Laging Saklolo, Knights of Columbus Hall**, Mabini Extension, Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, August 14, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at Sagrada Familia Memorial Park, Kapitan Pepe Subdivision, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

FLORA BARTOLOME Vda de BACOSA

of Ilocos Norte and Palawan

Died peacefully on August 8, 2002
at the age of 92.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Pasig Funeral Homes, Pasig City.

Interment will be on August 16, 2002, 9:00 a.m. at Sto. Rosario Memorial Park, Taytay.

ERRATUM

The obit ad of ROY LUMANLAN DAVID which came out last Saturday, August 10, 2002 under brothers and sisters **Victor (Doug)** and Anita David should have read as **Victor (Dong)**.

Our apologies.

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635-0219, 635-0220

ANITA B. AROLLADO

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 9, 2002
at the age of 73.

We, her children **Jesus & Letty, Jose & Rizalina, Concepcion, Conchita, Teresita & Raffy, Rosario, Josephina & Henry, Remedios & Johnson, Maria, Ana & David**; grandchildren and other relatives, will forever be nourished by her loving guidance and steadfast concern.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to Calumpang, Balud, Masbate on Wednesday, August 14, 2002.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 18, 2002 at Pulanduta, Balud, Masbate.

Message of Thanks
last July 6, 2002
our beloved ***JULIE***

Julia Cayetano Pasco

went home to be in God's eternal bosom there to live in peace and perfection. Her passing was a moment of grief for us, but it was easy to bear that grief for there were loved ones and family, friends and colleagues who assured us the presence and love of God in our lives.

Our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for your prayers, support, and thoughtfulness in our moment of bereavement.

Sonny, Lyle, & Pow Pasco
Nanay Remy Cayetano, Grace, Jan, & Icai Cayetano

ROMEO E. BARTOLOME

Gubat, Sorsogon and Pasig City

September 8, 1920 - August 7, 2002

His wife **Sayong**; children **Vic, Jun, Johnnie, Ning (†), Jobart, Tere, Nonoy & Grace**, and **Raul**; sisters **Estela** and **Pina**; and their families, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Pinontingan Chapel, Gubat, Sorsogon.

Interment will be announced later.

JUAN QUESADA, JR.

Former Newspaperman

Died on August 9, 2002
at his Quezon City home at the age of 81.

He is survived by his sons **Tito, Bertrand (Bu)** and **Ronnie**; daughters **Maloy, Mae** and **Dessa**; daughters-in-law **Ces Mangay, Donna Castro** and **Martina Gonzales**; sons-in-law **Lito Tiongson** and **Froi Medina** and grandchildren **Diwa** and **Gio Tiongson**, and **Isabel** and **Sophia Quesada**.

His body lies in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment plans will be announced later.

Kindly pray for the repose of his soul.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family and relatives
of the late

MILAGROS VILLARAZA TORRES

Who joined her Creator on August 3, 2002

Sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

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Telefax No. (088) 231-3248
E-mail: grandstar@hotmail.com
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Marquez News & Magazine Agency
Marquez Building, 51 Sinsuat Avenue
Cotabato City
Tel. Nos. (064) 421-3264/421-8611/
(064) 229-7089 (Lotlot - Secretary)
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Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
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Davao City (fronting Galleria Hotel)
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Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
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c/o Norie Bautista
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Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

"Don't grieve for Me, for now I'm free I'm following the path God laid for Me."

ENGR. MANUELITO P. HUGO, SR.

"MANING"

of Luisiana, Laguna and Marikina City

Born on August 10, 1919.

Peacefully joined his Savior on August 8, 2002.

His loving wife **ESTELA**; children **MERCY & CESAR (†), BOY & RITZ, ALEX & HELEN, MANNY, MARY ANN, MARISSA & NESTOR, KAEL & CRISTY, NOLI, LITO & EMILY**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, brothers and sisters, cousins, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for him on his eternal journey with our Lord.

His earthly remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

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Kalibo
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Tel. Nos. (036) 621-5586/522-6925
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Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053)325-6743/321-2954
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2002

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323-3269

2002 RANCHO 8325228

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4587026
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Edward 7289285 09183257044

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H-H-MS MALE 7314018

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FA104m² 2BR 1TB P945T Vic
8903461 loc. 27

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Bung 120m² Manuela Las
Pinas Pls Call 7151694

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BNewTwnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/grge
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224m² SSS VIII 939-5240

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Kapitolyo 634-1212

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Q.C. P5.5Million 9315859

999m² 3rd St. New Mla nr
St Paul 4574153 09185345359

FILINVESTI 2sty 4br 9522195

L-204m² Proj 8 5Bdrm w/1&b
2Car Grge Call 929-8376

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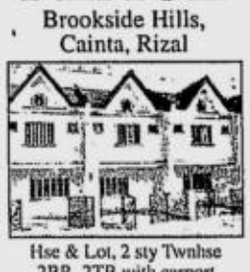
PLACE
Brookside Hills,
Cainta, Rizal



Hse & Lot, 2 sty Twnhse
2BR, 2TB with carport

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Antipolo City
Two-storey Town house

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★ Tierra Pura 5BR 4CG P12.5
★ Tierra Verde Lot 295m²
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★ OWNER LEAVING ★
H&L 240m² nr Antipolo
Church bung w/ propose 2nd
floor 3BR 1servants 2TB w/
heater bar grotto 3Narra furn.
Incl. '96 Tamaraw FX (GL)
DBO Marita 6875401 /
6314954 / 09164302545

L-932m² Baesa QC 4 Ind.
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Acropolis Subd. • 636-7974

Rush! owner lvg FA188m² 2.5M
Proj4 09177872830 / 4227374

•SM North Bnew 9263307•

RIZAL

Bentley Park Subd LA108
FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

Cozy Starterhome 346 sqm
Near Church 2BR 634-1212

SAN JUAN

5BR Prize In Quiet Nrth
Greenhills 0917-4149898

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Infront Xavier Back ICA 8BR
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Good Feng Shui Tel. 7221832

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D/P 20% Bal.10yrs. 531-0190

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P1.5M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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P6.5M Call 0918-5052638

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SAN JUAN

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PROVINCIAL

1ha coml lot nathlway
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★TAGAYTAY★Best lots / loc
240m²up ovrlooking alng hway
no down big disc Toll 6588704

METROSOUTH-L/A-260sqm
(main road near the clubhouse)
0917-8420737 or 636-1673

RUSH: TAGAYTAY LOT
2510sqm Price: P5000/m²
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(along expressway, nr. clubhouse)
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TAAL Btngs 200m from
Diversion Rd LA6794m²
P1.26M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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594 sqm Infrt. Mahogany
Mkt. Cell# 0917-8990836

TRECE MARTIREZ 1000m²
@P2t
good 4 gas station 801-6251

OTHER AREAS

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w/fruit trees 0916-3741571

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Resd'l Const & Hollow Blocks
making Look for Mrs. Reyes at
9394995

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville
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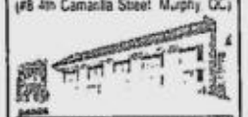

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Neg. Fur 1BR 0919-6781363

NR LA SALLE TAFT
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P899T CONDO UNIT
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★SUBIC 52has@300/m² neg
w/fruit trees 0916-3741571

MEMORIAL LOT

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Rush 4574153 09185345359

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7 KJJ Kamias T434211B

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PASIG

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Corinthian P120T/mo 9217468

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TECH CL09192064003

CONDO/TWNHSE

CONDO NICE 1BR CUBAO
P8,000 JENNY 4459979

MAKATI

3BR 3TB MD GAR VIL DE
GUAD CL09192064003

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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays: 12:00 noon, Day before publication
Sundays: 12:00 noon, every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

• MAKATI POLYCLINIC • D Skin Pregtest Mense ob Repair Makati Medical Plaza Rm.811 810-1366

MKT STDPROSTATE CENTER SKIN WARTS IMPOTENCE RM 46 2178 P. Tamo 8175071

RAPID Tx VD-STD CARS Ex SWEAT ALLERGIES 15 Annapolis, Greenhills all 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

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ouse & Bldgs 4178012

arehouse Deepwell Tank ructural Steel •829-7075•

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AUGUST 22 WORKSHOP FACIAL SKINCARE/TRTMENT AUGUST 23 WORKSHOP AROMATHERAPY & SPA 956031 L2011 OR 8971832

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2002 RANCHO 8325228

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JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8518650 ; 0916-4590734

JHON 4727243 MASSAGE

JALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

MALE SPA 562 BANAUE 7411426

UNWIND 752-0437

P-M/F-24H-SVC 851-9937 Romy

REFLEXOLOGY

HIRO-REFLEX 09174982509

Edward 7289285 09183257044

FEELS GOOD REFLEX CNTR 4127758/4134027

H-M-S MALE 7314018

JO Reflex 2512712/09194775476

REFLEX CARLA 716-4898

RFLX 09192395660/8891997

Wizard Massage 4213197

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ood Tutors 0918-3492895

• LIGHT 5301315 5268216 •

MATH PHYSICS ENTRANCE EXAM TUTOR 8979626

HOUSEHOLD

FLOOR SANDING

JL Flr Sand serv 4102824

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EAL MAIDS YAYA 732-6750

st Maids 4111593/7111602

best Maids 8429807/7722353

Good Maid Yaya Boy 7572089

Good-Maid-Yaya-Boy7570574

Good-Maid-Yaya-Driver7570574

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aids & Yaya Avail 5349074

Maids 9124701 • 9124706

MaidYayaCookDriver7225119

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Provincial All Around MAIDS Call Joy 8712372 • 8722792

Prov'l Trusted Maids Yaya Call 8737055 • 8737057

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LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

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COMML/RESDL

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HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

CAMARIN Cal City LA240m² FA104m² 2BR 1TB P945T Vic 8903461 loc. 27

LAS PINAS

Bung 120m² Manuela Las Pinas Pls Call 7151694

MANILA

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Investment Prop Near UST 250sq.m Txt 0917-4149898

NEAR ST. SCHO BNewTwnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.370M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

224m² SSS Vill 939-5240

Residential Or Office Prop. Ind. Valley 634-1212

PARAHAQUE

TAHANAN w/POOL 5br5tb 8903461 loc 16 ofc hrs

UNITED HILLS LA:616sqm FA:250sqm 4BR 3TB Mds Rm w/TB Study Rm. Patio w/Garden Call: 0917-5206382

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400 sqm 3BR / 2TB BF Home O.C. P5.5Million 9315859

999m² 3rd St. New Mla nr St Paul 4574153 09185345359

FILINVESTI 2sty 4br 9522195

L-204m² Proj 8 5Bdrm w/t&b 2Car Grge Call 929-8376

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COMML/RESDL

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Hse & Lot, 2 sty Twnhse 2BR, 2TB with carport

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M.L. Quezon Ext. Antipolo City
Two-storey Town house

BIRMINGHAM SUNRISE
SAN MATEO, RIZAL
50m² up nr Quezon City 2BR, 1T&B with carport

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★Mindanao Extn. Bnew 3BR 3TB 2CG Pool 24Hr Sec P2.9
★ Tierra Pura 5BR 4CG P12.5
★ Tierra Verde Lot 295m² 371-3996 • 0917-7957850 DBO

★ RUSH SALE ★
★ OWNER LEAVING ★
H&L 240m² nr Antipolo Church bung w/ propose 2nd floor 3BR 1servants 2TB w/ heater bar grotto 3Narra furn. incl. '96 Tamaraw FX (GL) DBO Marita 6875401 / 6314954 / 09164302546

L-932m² Baesa QC 4 Ind. 929-8376 Cell 0919-4024982

RENT OR SALE #18 Adonis Acropolis Subd. • 636-7974

Rush! owner lvg FA188m² 2.5M Proj4 09177872830 / 4227374

•SM North Bnew 9263307•

RIZAL

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

Cozy Starterhome 345 sqm Near Church 2BR 634-1212

SAN JUAN

5BR Prize In Quiet Nrth Greenhills 0917-4149898

5BR Prize In Quiet Nrth Greenhills 0917-4149898

★ Greenhills West ★
Infront Xavier Back ICA 8BR 8TB 9CG w/Good Business Good Feng Shui Tel. 7221832

PROVINCIAL

Imus 670T/1.2M 3BR/2TB/grge D/P 20% Bal.10yrs. 531-0190

OTHER AREAS

ADELINA 1 3Bdrms LA183m² P1.5M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

Rush!CanyonWoods Btngas P6.5M Call 0918-5052638

LOT

MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/proposed rd direct to FILINVEST ALABANG 477m² P4,500/m² SOUTH GREENHEIGHTS VILL 300m² P1.15M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

PARANAQUE

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PASIG

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PASIG

V.Verde 29T/m² neg 6582410

QUEZON CITY

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120sqm 3T/sqm 9530043

355m² T.Sora Rema Village DBO P2.3M Tel:843-2742

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XAVIERVILLE PH3 280SQM PRICE NEG CALL 9417311

RIZAL

CAINTA GREENPARK 200sqm P300-350T 4213561

SAN JUAN

Ghills East 1112m² w/ House DBO 0917-5320224

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1ha coml lot nathiway Capipisa, Tanza, Cavite P2,100 /sqm T-776-0097 Henry

CAVITE 510 sqm Front 1st Cavite Indl Ctr 2,000/sqm (036)6214115/0919877-4037

★TAGAYTAY★Best lots / loc 240m²up ovrlooking alng hway no down big disc Toti 6588704

METROSOUTH-L/A-260sqm (main road near the clubhouse) 0917-8420737 or 636-1673

RUSH: TAGAYTAY LOT 2510sqm Price: P5000/m² Overlooking along Natl. Rd. beside Splendido Yolly Cupat C#0916-5539078 or 09187063777 or Tel#9515359 or 046-4133505 email: REINER@GUOMAI.SH.CN

SOUTHPOINT-L/A-337sqm (along expressway, nr. clubhouse) 0917-8420737 or 636-1673

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P1.26M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

Tgytay Comm Lot-498, 580, 594 sqm Infrt. Mahogany Mkt. Cell# 0917-8990836

TRECE MARTIREZ 1000m² @P2t
good 4 gas station 801-6251

OTHER AREAS

★SUBIC 52has@300/m² neg w/fruit trees 0916-3741571

RUSH SALE 846sqm Resd'l Lot P1,200/sqm Ideal for Resd'l Const & Hollow Blocks making Look for Mrs. Reyes at 9394995

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville 209m² P567T Vic 8903461L.27

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

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Thse Sale / Rent Pulanglupa Las Pinas Sheh 0916-4758900

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1.2M 2BR CONDO
READY 4 OCCUPANCY. Nr. Makati. Only 10%DP required 5yrs term 0% interest 888-3333

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CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

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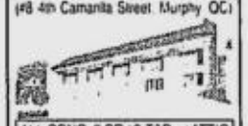

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0917-5242544/7235808/7270181

SAN JUAN

Fronting La Salle 1.8M Neg. Fur 1BR 0919-6781363

NR LA SALLE TAFT Twnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.370M up 8903461 loc 34

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Along V. Mapa Ext. Nr. San Juan & Ortigas. W/ 1st class amenities Spool, Clubhouse, Bball court. Few units left. 716-7039/7044

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PASIG

Alexandra Phse 12M 6582410

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Office Condo Prime Loc. For an Office Tektite 634-1212

ORTIGAS CTR Penthse Unit Sale or Rent 412-1825

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Nena Divino 09175335635
426-0531/426-6266

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PROVINCIAL

★SUBIC 52has@300/m² neg w/fruit trees 0916-3741571

RUSH SALE 45.34sqm FFurnish P2M 09202201489

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Class - Agricultural
Price - P 350 / sq.m.
Location - Brgy. Mabato Rosario, Batangas
Contact Person
Jose Macalindong
Tel. (046) 438-6001

PASIG

VVERDE 3 BD 1.9M 9124323

QUEZON CITY

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NICE 145M² TOWNHOUSE
FUNCTIONAL INTERIOR
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LAND AREA: 9,916 sq.m.
BLDG. #1 - 1,476 sq.m., BLDG. #2 - 432 sq.m.
CALL: JIMMY FORMOSO or BENJIE TAN
Tel. 636-0279 or 632-7061

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APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BRTB GRG nr B'dia 8441669

MANILA

2BR ITB 10T NR ST. SCHO/ CSB/DLSU T5236124 FELY

Sampaloc 7841746/6682108

MANDALUYONG

1BR U&D Nice w/Grge Back of Mun. Hall, #32 Bulalakaw 531-4520 • 534-4109

Nr Megamall 10T 5315809

MUNTINLUPA

COML APT TUNASAN 8502717

PASAY

2BR Cuenca/Lib •T831-5026•

QUEZON CITY

12E V.Ilustre cor DTuazon 2br P7T 9207101/0919-3652573

22 Oxford St. 09178172147

2BR 1TB P9T no garage 7 KJJ Kamias T4342118

Banahaw 3BR near MRT Stn Pvt Cpd Call Nancy 700-9032

HOUSE

House for Rent 9113516

MAKATI

For Rent House 10 Min Drve Edsa Ayala 5 Min Global CT British Sch Montessori Access C5 Kalayaan SSperHywy Villamor 3BR 3CR 3Car Garge Lanai PLDT Cable Internet Furnish Call 844-2837

MANDALUYONG

2BR 1TB Grge 532-4742

PARANAQUE

3BR 2TB Bungalow w/Grge Levitown P'que • 823-4832

BET LVG POE 4BR 3TB TEL 18T/MO 09177948571 BONG

PASIG

KAPITOLYO STUDIO 631-9239

QUEZON CITY

1BR FLAT SEMIFURN W/MDS RM GRGE 10T 7210789

Corinthian P12OT/mo 9217468

NR UP 3BR 2T&B P9.5T/MO. CALL 932-2128/931-0685

PROVINCIAL

3BR 2TB MD GR ATL TECH CL09192064003

CONDO/TWNHSE

CONDO NICE 1BR CUBAO P8,000 JENNY 4459979

MAKATI

3BR 3TB MD GAR VIL DE GUAD CL09192064003

CLASSICA TOWER-123BR Salcedo Vill.,Makati, 43-157m² 18-70K,UF/FF 7594091*7522580*7592335

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MAKATI

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Millenium 1BR FF Mkt Ave. P20T/mo. • Call 724-38-94

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Palm Village Nr. Rockwell 3BR 25T/mo 0917-3955738

Residential Condo LPL Manor, Makati / Warehouse w/ office 540sqm, Bicutan. Call 547-3471 to 3473

Rockwell P'hse 4BR 9217468

MANILA

Studio Beside Robinsons Ermita F Furn w/Prkng View of Manila Bay Newly Renovated •0917-9349679•

MANDALUYONG

WACK WACK TWN FF 2BR NICE VIEW OF MKT SKYLINE ARLEN 0917-3957343/ /27-9899/718-1053

MUNTINLUPA

3 BR 2TB MINTCOA 10K CL09192064003

PASIG

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MPlaza Ortigas Std FFurn 12K 0917-9681708, 951-6418

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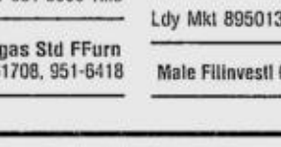
Ldy Mkt 8950134 . 8907136

Male Filinvestl QC 952-2195



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MONUMENTO LRT STATION
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531-4631 to 33

• KIA MAKATI
(SIGNET MAKATI)
LA FUERZA PLAZA,
2241 PASONG TAMO ST.,
MAKATI CITY
817-8416 / 817-8417 / 817-8406
TELEFAX: 817-8421

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315T A1Cond 7317984

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INVITATION TO A PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE AND SEALED BIDDING

Interested parties are hereby invited to a **PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE** and **SEALED BIDDING** for the supply and delivery of:

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- **ONE (1) UNIT of CHEVROLET VENTURE GL-10 2002** (LTO registered, with floor mats and seat covers)

The **PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE** will be held on **August 29, 2002** at **10:00 a.m.** at Alapang, La Trinidad, Benguet where the technical procedures of the bidding proper and other related matters will be discussed.

SEALED BIDS must be received on or before **September 13, 2002** at **12:00 NOON** at Alapang, La Trinidad, Benguet. **OPENING of BIDS** will be on the same date at **1:00 p.m.**

Only those present during the Pre-Qualification Conference will be allowed during the bidding proper. BENECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids which do not comply with the requirements.

THE PBAC

(PDI - Aug. 11, 18 & 25, 2002)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

LOST BROWN NATIVE DOG male big built with blue collar Last seen Aug.4 near Luz Facial Visayas Ave. Vasra Village, Q.C. Call 4536765 or (0917)9638392 or (0917)4112934 BIG REWARD NO QUESTIONS ASKED

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Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).
Sweet Mother, I place this cause In Your hands (3x).
Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.
Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.
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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids, re: supply of labor, tools and materials for the **INSTALLATION OF FIRE ALARM SYSTEM & SMOKE/ HEAT DETECTOR.**

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

List of requirements to be submitted:
1. Letter of Intent / co. profile
2. SEC registration
3. Bus. License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before August 26, 2002 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--Aug. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 & 19, 2002)

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ROBERT SY - OFFICE 7276344, 7255159, 7256193
ROSE TAN YAP - OFFICE: 2429593; 2429587
TERESITA LIM FLORENZO - HOME: 3619492 C.P.: 0917-4268686

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

SALLY CYNTHIA SANTOS-MARANION
Blk. 3, Lot 6, JM Homes Subdivision
EJC Montilla, Tacurong City

We want the public to know that the person, whose picture appears above, has been issued WARRANT OF ARREST by the Hon. Regional Trial Court of Tacurong City, Branch 20 in connection with Criminal Case Nos. 2098-3006 for nine (9) counts of ESTAFA.

Anybody who can give information leading to her arrest will be rewarded! Please contact any of the following numbers:

Tel. Nos. (0917) 702-3129; (082) 224-6840; (064) 200-3226

(PDI – Aug. 11, 2002)

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Notice is hereby given that Official Receipt No. 04480 of SD Publications, Inc. has been declared lost.

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(PDI--Aug. 11, 2002)

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

NEW PMMAP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo swears in the new set of officers and directors of the Purchasing and Materials Management Association of the Philippines (PMMAP) for fiscal year 2002-2003 at an induction rite held at the Malacañang Palace recently. Shown are (from left) Dennis G. Calica (URC), Raymond P. Receno (Bataan Polyethylene Corp.), Lourdes V. Bambalan (Flexopak International), Marissa V. Pangilinan (Philip Morris), Mina M. Bato (Sara Lee Direct Selling Phil.), Minerva M. Agas, CPM (Smart Communications), Miraluz C. Tan (Nestle Phils.), Ofelia R. Valerio (Merck Inc.), Imelda S. Carillo, CPM (Johnson & Johnson Phils. Inc.), Angel V. Gatchalian, CPM (United Laboratories Inc.) Dean L. Guevarra, CPM (Central Azucarera Don Pedro), Rainfredo P. Romero, CPM (Aventis Pharma), Jovencio P. Bantang Jr (GMA Network Inc.) Juanito P. Rosales (Ayala Land Corp.), Carmelo C. Ocampo (Globe Telecom) and Generoso P. San Felipe (Irri).

BPI deemed best governed corp., best domestic bank

A FINANCIAL magazine based in Hong Kong has adjudged the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) best in corporate governance and the best domestic commercial bank in the country.

The Asset selects the best in every country in the region and features them in its most recent issue.

As defined by The Asset, the mark of good corporate governance is the ability to strike a balance between economic and social goals and between individual and communal goals.

The World Bank institutes good corporate governance to encourage efficient use of resources and to foster accountability in the stewardship of those resources. Its ultimate aim is to attract investments, as far as corporations are concerned. For the government, the aim is to discourage fraud and mismanagement and thereby strengthen the economy.

In descending order, the companies that made it to the top 10 were BPI, SM Prime, Ayala Group, Alaska Milk, Jollibee, Meralco, PLDT, and Globe Telecom. It may be worth noting that two of these firms are BPI sister companies, Ayala and Globe.

BPI leads in credit cards, mortgage, auto loans, asset management and trust, and insurance industries. Its wide distribution network – 688 branches and 918 ATMs – enables the bank to reach its more than three million customers in all cities and provincial capitals of the country. In addition, it has alternative distribution channels including Internet, as well as landline and mobile phones.

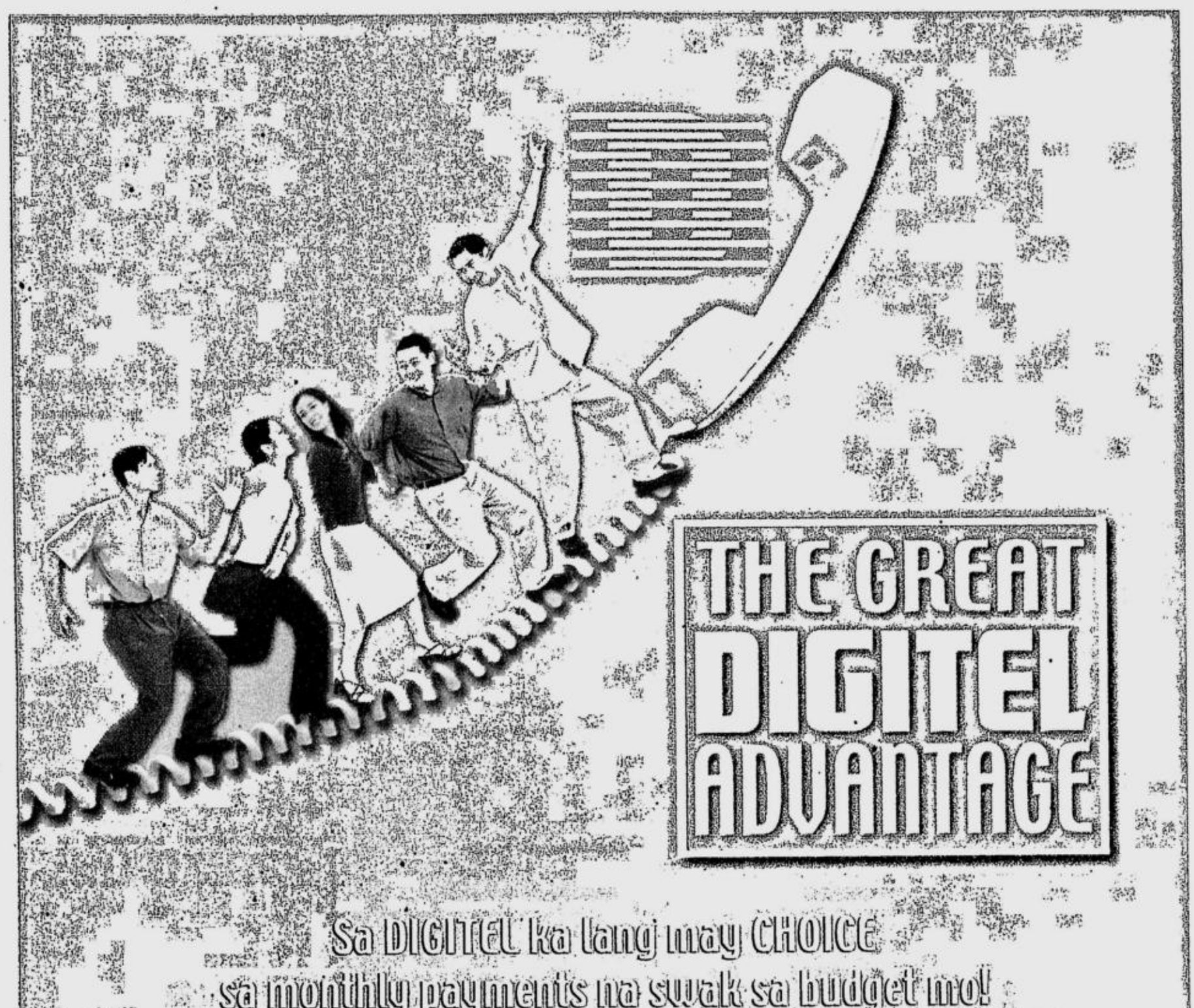
A sister company of Ayala Corp., BPI has a captive market it can tap for its products. It is one reason the bank is a leader in consumer banking, corporate lending, trust and assets management, and bancassurance.

Last year, BPI posted a net income of P5.25 billion, 72 percent higher than the previous year. The figure represents the best profit performance in domestic banking industry thus far. Although its return on equity dipped slightly to 10.6 percent from 13 percent, its non-performing loan ratio improved to 11.6 percent from 12.79 percent.

Integration of its insurance business allows both cross-selling and cost-cutting. Fee-based income now accounts for a third of the bank's total income. The return on average equity of the bank has risen to over 10 percent this year.

BPI is also a recipient of countless awards from other financial magazines over the years.

The other publications and the awards they confer on BPI are Far Eastern Economic Review, best in financial soundness; Finance Asia, best managed company; Global Finance, best domestic bank; and Asiamoney, best domestic commercial bank.



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See posters for details.

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BITS Clips

Samsung Cyber Games ongoing

SAMSUNG Electronics Philippines Corp. is holding its nationwide preliminary competitions for the 1st Philippine Cyber Games Challenge at SM Manila until Aug. 13. More than 5,000 Filipino gaming enthusiasts around the country is competing in PC game events, which include Star Craft, Brood War, Age of Empires: The Conquerors Expansion and Counter Strike. Provincial contestants from Dagupan, Angeles, Legaspi, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, and Davao cities are also having their competitions. Other preliminary games for participants from Metro Manila, Baguio, Cebu and Zamboanga cities will be held from Aug. 17 to 20. Metro Manila and provincial winners automatically qualify for the national finals from Sept. 19 to 21. 9 winners will be chosen from 256 finalists to comprise the Philippine team, which will compete in the World Cyber Games 2002 in Daejon, South Korea this October.

9th CEP-real estate lecture at Tagaytay

THE URBAN Institute of Real Estate will conduct the 9th CEP-Real Estate Lecture Series on Aug. 25 and 26, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The series is intended for prospective real estate developers, investors, financiers, owners, and realty brokers for the renewal of their license. The lecture series covers the topics (day 1) real estate appraisal, property management, legal aspect of sale, mortgage and lease, contract documentation and registration, (day 2) joint venture and real estate syndication, real estate taxation, and market networking for real estate. The lecture series is in partnership with the new Skyview Inn Seminar and Conference Center atop Tagaytay Ridge, along Aguinaldo Highway in Alfonso Junction. For inquiries, call Urban Institute at 681-0928 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

The espresso market: the fad that became a great demand

IN THE 9TH century, Italians often sat in street cafes, deep in conversation, sipping their coffee/ they ordered so much of the dark rich beverage that café operators, called *baristas* (café operators) couldn't brew the coffee fast enough to meet the demand. The concern became evident and better brewing methods were deemed essential.

To solve this problem, an Italian engineer named Bezzera patented the first espresso machine in 1903. This machine heated water to approximately 150 degrees with an atmospheric pressure of 1.3. This pressure caused steam to infuse rapidly through finely ground coffee. The result was a beverage with premium flavors the Italian called *espresso*. Espresso is derived from the root word "*pressor*", meaning the process in which oils are pressed or removed from the coffee. It was this invention that changed coffee drinking habit through time. The Italians treasured the new beverage and drank it straight in 2.5 oz. demitasse cups called *fazzina*. The freshness of the bean caused dense, golden foam to float atop the cup. Today the foam, called *crema*, still marks the quality of espresso, by 1945, Gaggia and Valente's piston-driven machine revolutionized espresso making, paving the way for a more state-of-the-art machine.

During this era, espresso drinking was limited to Italy and nearby European countries. Americans simply drank percolated and brewed coffee, naïve of the flavored drink across the sea. It wasn't until many years later that espresso gained popularity in the United States and subsequently in Asia.

When espresso first made its way to the Philippines, it was served primarily in the most exclusive restaurants and the 5-star hotels, where it achieved mild success. Filipinos have always enjoyed coffee, in the '70s many coffee houses such as the Whistle Stop, Dean Street Café and the Jeepney Bar opened where people gather to drink coffee and discuss the nation's troubles even up to the wee hours of the day. By the late '80s, the devout java drinkers wanted something more sophisticated and merchants began to brew gourmet coffee beans that produced a more passionate, rich, aromatic flavor.

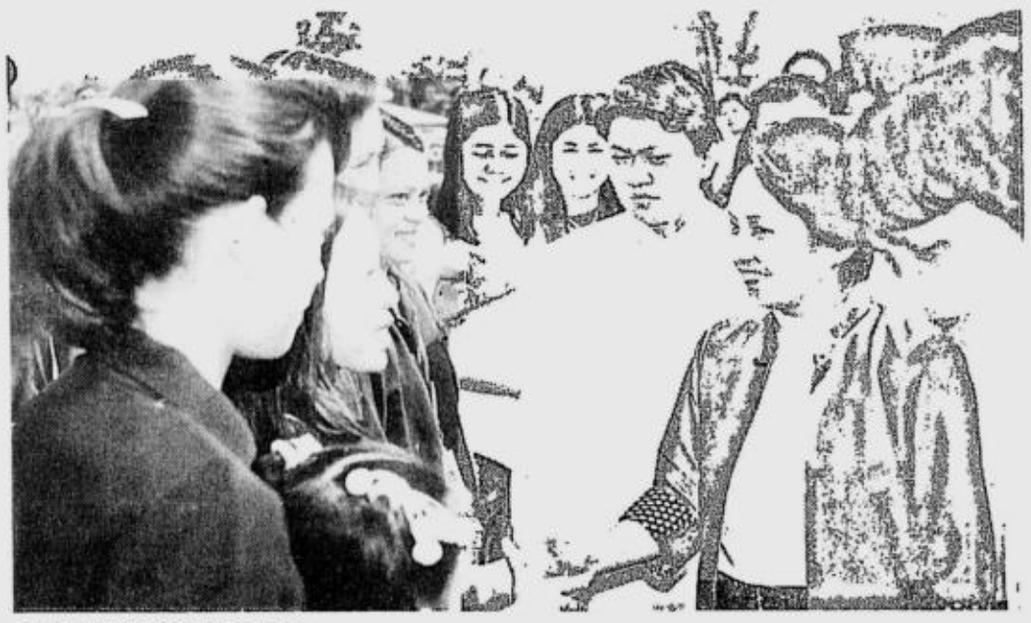
In a recent years, a popular coffee chain from Seattle started operation in Makati, espresso and cappuccino found instant fame among the yuppies and text generation, thus making the coffee industry in the Philippines more ala mode. Many entrepreneurs noted the rapid success of the business and ventured in the same trend. Now, coffee bars are interesting sights everywhere, be it in the shopping malls, offices, restaurants, bookstores, campuses, gas stations and sidewalks.

Today, espresso drinking is no longer limited to the rich and politicians alike. Students, housewives, average employees and even citizens can afford an espresso or more to satisfy even the most sensitive palates. One concrete example is the kiosk located at the Park & Ride in Lawton Plaza in the heart of Manila. The area is a common place for commuters or LRT passengers going to Las Piñas and other parts of Metro Manila, as well as those going to Cavite and Laguna. Super Bar in Lawton Plaza serves hot, iced and frozen espresso beverages for only P23 with a demand of 400 to 500 cups a day. Future site prospects include MRT stations, bus terminals, hospitals, universities and many shopping malls. Moreover, coffee is also habit forming across cultures and ages.

The goal of the broad spectrum of companies in the espresso industry is to change consumer's attitude about what they usually drink everyday, during snacks and every after meal. In order to bring regular drip coffee drinkers over to espresso, certain advantages and characteristics of the product must also be taken into close evaluation.

Besides the flavor, drip coffee drinkers often make the switch to espresso because of its versatility. They can enjoy a *latte* today and *caffe mocha* (espresso with chocolate and hot milk added) the next day. Beforehand, the only choice drip coffee drinkers had was whether they wanted cream or sugar in their coffee. But with the advent of gourmet coffee in the market, many non-coffee drinkers enter the realm of espresso for a cup of cappuccino and flavored lattes. Once hooked, they seldom go back to percolator, brewed or instant coffee.

Allegro Beverage Corp. (ABC) imports and distributes Nuova Simonelli Espresso Equipment from Italy, Frosty Factory slush and Soft Serve Ice Cream Equipment from the United States, Danesi Café Espresso Beans from Rome, Caferina commercial coffee brewers and percolators from Taiwan, Bravo juice dispensers from Italy and custom-built Espresso carts. ABC also specializes in beverage equipment installation, service and repair and espresso bar training. Call 817-5528 or 817-1074.



GMA VISITS FAITH

First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (Faith) gives President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo a warm welcome during her recent visit in the city of Tanauan's anniversary. Arroyo shakes hands with faculty members, students, and staff of Faith. Faith is an educational institution of higher learning and research located in Tanauan, Batangas. If offers state-of-the-art facilities that are wired to the world. It aims to produce students who are not only technologically skilled but also well grounded on good, moral humanistic values.

Product FILES

3M's Present & Win promo

THE NEXT pack of plain paper copier, computer graphics transparency films, or flip frame transparency protector films that you purchase may be the very answer to your presentation anguish.

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Just fill up the raffle coupon found in every box of 3M Plain Paper Copier, CG Transparency Films, or Flip Frame Transparency Protector Films and mail your entry to Jenn Pacannuayan, Present & Win Raffle Program, 3M Philippines Inc. Visual Systems Division, 18th floor of PCI Bank Tower II, Makati Avenue, Makati City 1200 by Nov. 14. Winners will be drawn on Nov. 15.

NEW COLLECTION FROM DUCKS

Ducks Unlimited, the sports-oriented total fashion house, has come up with a new line for teens and yuppies. Combining trendy fabrics and colors with the requirements of ease and comfort, the new line is an across-the-board fashion, whether in malling or casual settings. Modeled here by Jarvis and Marwin, this new line comes in bright colors, smart tees, trendy and cool pants, long and short. Made of 100-percent Egyptian cotton, Ducks Unlimited new line can also be complemented by other lines such as jackets, undergear, bags, belts, shoes, socks and denims.

Romantic rainy season with MSV

IT'S GETTING cold every morning and regularly raining in the afternoon. Each night seems so quite as if so many secrets are being hidden. Whatever, it's the season more conducive to romance. So let's fall in love and feel the heat inside. Read the novels from My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks and keep the spirits high. Now, we're ready for the big rains.

Bookware Publishing Corp. recently released 12 new MSV titles: "First Love, Last Love," "Now That I Found You," "Sweet Enchantress," "Ngayon Pa Lamang Umibig," "May Bagong Umaga sa Piling Mo," " Salamat sa Halik," " Muling Sindihan ang Apoy," "Love Me Forever," "The Love I Found in You," and "Ikaw Lang Dito sa Puso Ko."

Incidentally, the company's ongoing "Nokia 8310 Raffle Promo" continues to receive more entries for its monthly draws. Recent winner is Corazon Balayo of Pasay City. for inquiries, call Dottie Pineda at 631-8893 to 94.

SCULPTURES OF FORM AND FUNCTION

'A Celebration of Wood & Form: An Exhibition of Sculptures' of noted sculptor Jerusalino 'Jerry' V. Araos was opened recently at the exhibit hall of Gardenia Bakeries Philippines Inc., whose main office and plant are situated at the Laguna International Industrial Park in Binan. Simplicio P. Umali Jr., general manager of Gardenia, said the exhibit is part of the company's goal of bringing contemporary art to the consciousness of its employees and to plant visitors. Gardenia Bakeries Philippines Inc. is a subsidiary of QAF Limited (Singapore).

MARY KAY JOINS WOMAN EXPO

Mary Kay Philippines, a subsidiary of Mary Kay Inc of the United States, confirms its participation in the US Pavilion at the Motherhood & Woman Expo, the first international expo for today's independent woman, from Aug. 16 to 18 at the Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall. Shaking hands to seal the agreement are Zeno Martinez (in coat) of MPG Inc., the organizer of the event, and Bernie Mercado, general manager of Mary Kay Philippines, with Mary Kay executives Lynne Tribino, sales and training development director, and Jiji Recto, marketing manager. For more details, call MPG Inc. at 852-7618/19, or e-mail mpg-inc@edsanmail.com.ph.

FRUITTELLA CELEBRATES FATHER'S DAY

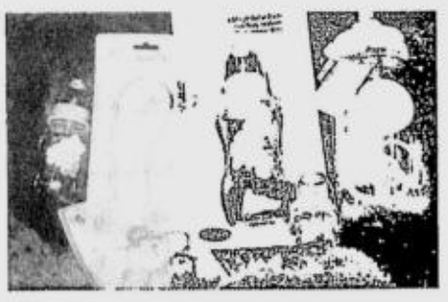
Fruittella Yo!Gurt, the first fruit and yogurt-flavored candy in the Philippines, celebrated Father's Day by sponsoring Grandslam Shootout's 'Shootout with Dad' at three SM malls. A father-and-son team was named champion for each mall: Robert Sr and Robert Jr Cawili for SM Manila, Robert and John Sarte for SM City Fairview and Joseph and Rafael Pasion for SM Southmall. Shown are Perfetti Van Melle (makers of Fruittella Yo!Gurt) brand manager Delia del Rosario and the SM Manila Grandslam Shootout champion team. Fruittella Yo!Gurt comes in three fruit-and-yogurt flavors: mango, raspberry and blueberry.

2002 APJ LEADERSHIP AWARDS SEARCH ON

The Aurelio Periquet Jr. Business Leadership Awards (APJ-BLA) is organized by the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation and Manila Jaycees Inc., in cooperation with the PCCI and Metrobank Foundation, the search covers Filipino businessmen who have placed the dimension of service and national development into the equation of business achievement. From 1998, eight APJ-BLA awardees have been recognized. The APJ-BLA 2002 search was launched May. The deadline for submission of nominations is on Aug. 15. For inquiries, call 810-9652, 894-4774, 525-2631, and 525-6792. At the launch of the awards at the general membership meeting of the Manila Jaycees at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel is Anna Periquet (center), daughter of the late Dr. Aurelio Periquet Jr., signing the MOA with (from left) Metrobank executive vice president Elvira Ong-Chan and Metrobank Foundation president Dr. Placido Mapa as presenters of the 5th APJ-BLA, Manila Jaycees president Joel Nunez and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Sergio Ortiz-Luis as organizers.

Product FILES

Baby Snoopy at affordable prices



Baby Snoopy is here with a complete line of infant products such as assorted feeding bottles, silicone nipples, non-spill cups, stainless steel cutlery sets, rattles, gift sets, and feeding systems. These are premium products with a strong brand identity, which will give you a higher satisfaction at very affordable prices.

Marketed in the Philippines by Coral Stone Corp., Baby Snoopy Infant accessories are available in all leading stores such as Rustans, SM Department Store and Landmark.

It's Brita for 50 million people

Beat the heat with Brita—the world's bestselling brand of water filter. Every day, 50 million people in 70 countries rely on Brita Water Filter Pitchers to remove unpleasant odors and improve the taste of drinking water. Using German technology, Brita Water Filter Pitchers contain granular activated carbon and an ion exchange resin that stop bacterial growth and effectively remove impurities like aluminum, chlorine, lead, copper, pesticides and other chemical residues. Brita filtered water is also ideal for making ice cubes and for cooking vegetables, soups and pastas. Shown is the Optimax model that filters 5.5 liters of water and conveniently fits in the fridge or on the bench top. Brita is distributed by Mayon Consolidated Inc. Call 372-3944 to 48 and look for Ramel Tiamson or Luz Belecina for more information.

SundayBiz

One-day seminar beats three degrees in making money

ILAW ni Hannah candles have been a big hit in Batangas.
PHOTOS BY MEI MAGSINO

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BATANGAS CITY—Ten years ago, Darlene Cueto told her high school teacher that she would have her own successful business enterprise by doing the craft she loves. Her teacher just nodded at the 16-year-old girl's dream.

Cueto, at 26, is now the most sought-after maker of scented, no drip candles. Her success started last year when her business boomed and made her one of the young entrepreneurs featured on national television.

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

Mixing her love for business and candles, she is now the owner of her own business venture "Ilaw ni Hannah" (Hannah's light).

"Hannah is a name I got from a character in the Holy Bible, which means the light of grace," Cueto says. "My business is based on my solid faith in the grace of God that it will get bigger and bigger."

Cueto's candles were featured at the Teysi ng Tahanan, Filipinas Magazine and local community papers last year.

Her products have also been sold in the city's boutiques and shopping centers. This August, her business will turn a year old—an infant in the business community, but already, Cueto has proven that a well-planned venture can bring good fruits if you work hard for it.

Worn-out shoes

Working hard is not foreign for Cueto. Before she started her own business, she had worn out several pairs of good shoes applying to different banks and corporations, which all rejected her.

Cueto finished Business Technology, a two-year vocational course, at the AMA Learning Center in 1994. After graduation, she found it difficult finding a job. Desperate to have one, she accepted a job at the Israel Airlines as a trainee and received only P50 a day.

"After two months, I realized that nothing good was happening to me. I then decided to return home to Batangas, where I applied for so many jobs. However, because I had no *padrino*, and I finished only a two-year course, I was always turned down," Cueto says.

A break to earn big bucks came in 1995 when she sold kindergarten textbooks all over the province.

"With the money I earned, I returned to school. This time, I enrolled in Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, still in AMA," Cueto says.

After only 2-1/2 years, she graduated with high hopes that she would easily land on a good job, only to find out that having a college degree alone is not an assurance of a better future.

LOOK, ma, no drip! Cueto's scented, no-drip candles save a lot of wax.

"It didn't work. That time, the competition was tougher as the companies preferred applicants with master's degree," Cueto says.

After wearing out the soles of her best shoes and getting callous from walking all day, applying in almost all the banks in Makati City's central business district, she landed on a job as a legal secretary in a law office.

Survival

Subsisting on tuna, sardines and other food items given by friends, she was able to save some money, which she used to support her graduate studies at the Pamantasan ng Makati.

"That was the worst and still the best part of my life because I was in the survival point. I even sold Disney cassette tapes and Festival fruitcakes to my church-mates to get by," she adds.

But since she was not interested in the laws, she tried to apply with other firms like the Copylandia, Ubix, banks, and Family First but luck was still elusive.

Frustrated, she sold goat's milk soap imported from Malaysia.

"When finally I thought I had enough of the hard life, I returned home," Cueto says.

In Batangas city, she had a short stint in the documentation department of the Foster Wheeler Inc., one of the contractors of the Malampaya gas power project. Her job, however, still did not give her the results she wanted.

"That time, I realized that I should have my own business, since it was what I had wanted to do since I was young," Cueto says. "But the problem is, I just didn't know what business to venture into."

Candle business

Thanks to the idle hours she spent watching television, she finally found the kind of business she wanted to put up. The idea of starting a business with candle as the main product came after watching a television program that featured the art of candle making.

"Even when I was young, I preferred to light candles instead of switching on the colorful electric bulbs during holidays," Cueto says. "I had already loved candles even before they were considered as decors.

Knowing what she wanted, Cueto then searched for training seminars on candle making and found one being conducted by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

After the one-day seminar, with only P15,000 at hand, Cueto gambled on her new business. "I knew that after all the hardwork and difficult times I had in working for other people, I was ready for my own business and everything that would come with it," she proudly says.

With only one helper, she started her own candle business.

The candles her family and friends thought were only for All Saints' Day became an instant hit.

No drip

Cueto's scented, no-drip decorative candles have been selling like hotcakes since she put her products for sale at the city's boutiques and shopping centers.

"Among my present clients, the biggest are Genepits Boutique and the Pic and Save shopping center, which order my candles on a monthly basis by bulk," Cueto says.

Now with 12 dealers all over the province, Ilaw ni Hannah manufactures at least 200 candles every day.

"In Batangas, there is really no tough competition when it comes to decorative candles," Cueto says. "Most of the candle makers here are just hobbyists."

She says she made the hobby into a business, which became a success. And she reveals that the secret for the success of her no-drip candles lies in the materials she uses.

Cueto buys her raw materials from a direct supplier from Thailand, Brazil and Malaysia. All her candles are hand-made, which adds to the quality and artistic design of the products.

On the third month of her business, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) chose her to exhibit her products at the *Barakalan*, a DTI-sponsored exhibit of local products at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall.

"There, I was interviewed by Sison of the Filipinas Magazine," Cueto says, "I didn't know the magazine has an international circulation. When the feature story was published, I got more media exposure and the orders for candles came pouring in.

Teacher

Although the peak season for the decorative candles is from September to December, Cueto says the demand is still high even during the off-season.

She also trains students on how to make hand-made decorative candles. Her training program for basic candle making has been accredited by the DTI.

Unlike Tesda training sessions, Cueto's classes include demonstrations complete with all the equipment and raw materials of the trade at P500 per student.

The program takes a whole day at Cueto's Candle Factory Outlet in Barangay San Isidro, Batangas City.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

"HIS grace is sufficient." Marisette Galang at home in Manila PHOTO: ROGER CARPIO

Thursdays with Marisette

Marisette Galang lives on borrowed time. But the lessons she has learned are eternal

By Cathy Babao Guballa

EVERY Tuesday, Mitch Alblom would visit his old professor Morrie Schwartz at his home and together they would sit while Morrie, who was terminally ill, would share life's most important lessons with Mitch. All this learning took place in the last year of Schwartz's life and was detailed in the best-selling book, "Tuesdays with Morrie."

Somewhere in San Francisco, at Stanford University Hospital, a similar scene has been taking place every Thursday for two years now. This time the teacher is inspiring, thirtysomething Marisette Galang, and her "students" are a group of high school classmates from the Assumption College in Manila, now based in the US, who take turns every Thursdays in accompanying Marisette to her weekly chemotherapy sessions.

Meeting Marisette Galang, one is immediately struck by her serenity and aura. It is clearly peace that comes from deep within. You would not think for a moment that this is a woman who is terribly ill, one who faces the

THURSDAY/ p.C4

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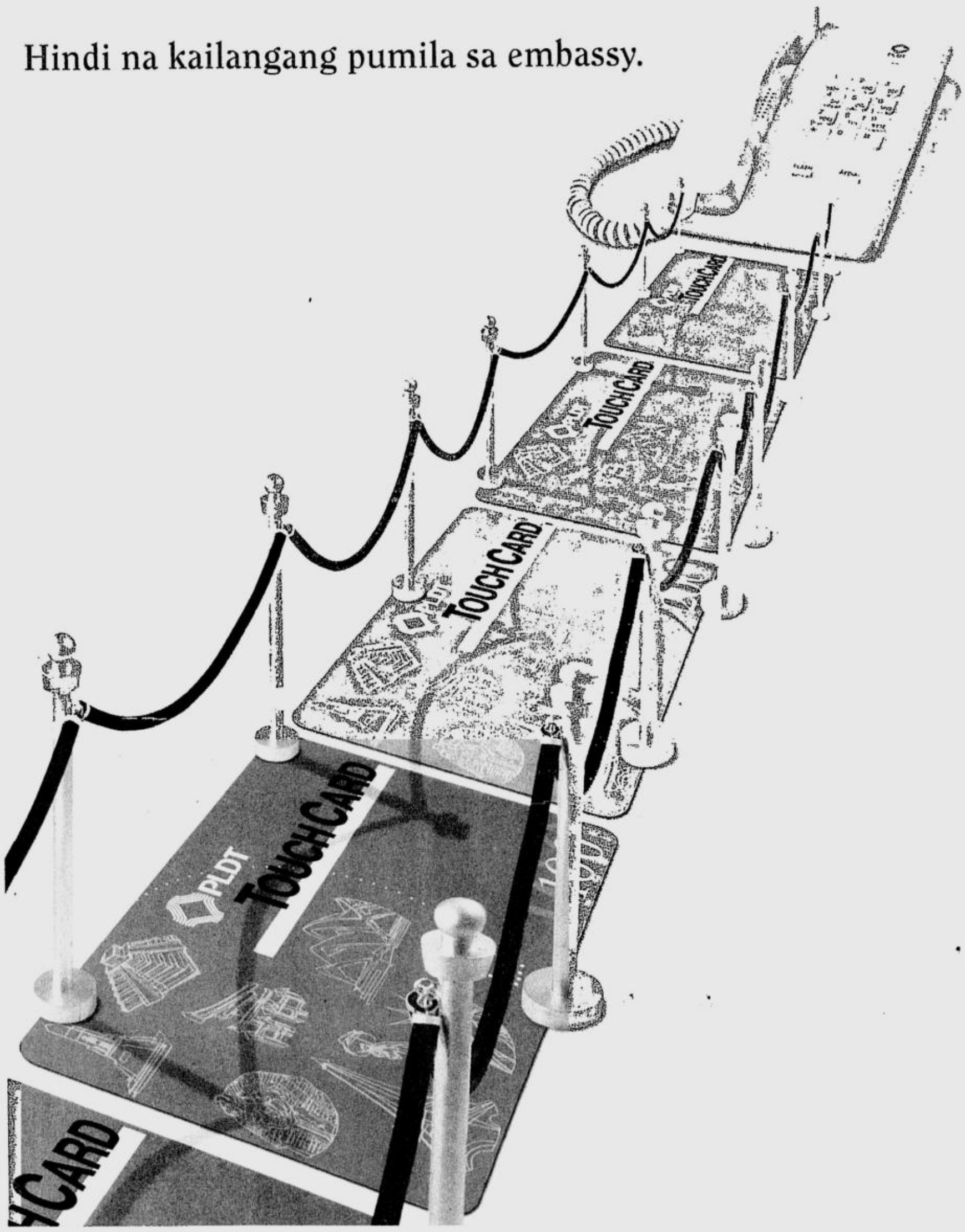

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E.D.itorial

This week's columnist:

EVANGELINE B. DELA FUENTE, MD, MHA
Associate Professor of Psychiatry
University of the Philippines
College of Medicine
Psychiatry Consultant
Sunrise Hill Therapeutic Community

TRICKs OR TREATment?
Knowing the Best Solution to E.D.

PART 1. TRICKS?

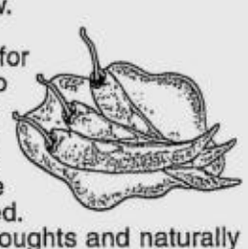
Contentment often eludes man. The insatiable desire for something better inspires him to keep searching for ways to enhance his experience. This search does not exclude the area of sexuality. While there are those who believe that the sexual response is satisfactorily enhanced by emotional closeness and the pleasure engendered by loving, it is not surprising that many remain fascinated with aphrodisiacs.

An aphrodisiac as defined by Webster is "a food, drug or other agent that arouses or is reputed to arouse sexual desire."

An aphrodisiac as defined by Webster is "a food, drug or other agent that arouses or is reputed to arouse sexual desire." The term was derived from the name of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty, who is identified by the Romans with Venus. Aphrodite was also the mother of Eros, the god of love. The origin of the word in mythology may have added to its appeal.

The popularity of aphrodisiacs dates back to ancient times. The search for a suitable aphrodisiac continues to this day. Some of the commonly known aphrodisiacs are listed below.

Exotic spices. Cinnamon, for instance, greatly appeals to the senses. The smell and taste of cinnamon usually evokes a pleasurable response and may make one feel refreshed and revitalized.



It may stimulate sensual thoughts and naturally lead to an erotic physiological response. Pepper, on the other hand, causes a burning sensation on the tongue. It increases body temperature or "turns up the heat" and may make one feel "hot".

Chocolate. Chocolate is a popular Valentine's Day gift. Aztecs indulged in this treat not just to satisfy a sweet tooth but allegedly to boost sexual drive. Cacao, where chocolate comes from, actually contains stimulating compounds which increase levels of "feel-good" endorphins in the brain and promote an arousal of the senses.

Oysters. Just as Venus emerged from a shell, so do oysters. This may partially account for its label as an aphrodisiac. Oysters actually contain the chemical element zinc in abundance. Zinc is important in the metabolism of the male hormone testosterone.

Balut. The fertilized duck's egg has long been hailed as *pampatigas ng tuhod.* It is rich in protein and floods the blood stream with the amino acid tyrosine. This helps enhance mental alertness and concentration and may work wonders on the libido.

Soup Number Five. The much sought after delicacy consisting of cow's gonads may operate on the same protein-rich mechanism as balut. The same effect may be obtained from a steak dinner and enhanced by the romantic flicker of candlelight.

Alcohol. If taken in small quantities, alcohol decreases inhibition and may allow one to be more expressive of one's desires. If taken in large amounts over a long period of time however, alcohol will adversely affect one's sexual function. Shakespeare's comment that - alcohol provokes the desire but takes away the performance - remains true.

With the exception of alcohol, it may be harmless and even quite fun to try out any of the above commonly available "aphrodisiacs." An optimistic outlook will definitely boost their power. If you believe they will work, they most likely will.

Thus far, however, there has been no conclusive evidence regarding the "aphrodisiac property" of known substances. Many of the accounts are anecdotal. The truth awaits scientific verification. The healthy individual is likely to do very well sexually without the use of aphrodisiacs.

But what about those who may be having some problems?

To be continued...
PART 2. TREATment options available

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU...

This is a survey to determine which among the given aphrodisiacs above is most widely believed to actually work.

Answer this question: Which among the given aphrodisiacs do you believe really works?

Text us your answer at **0917-8PFIZER** (0917-8734937) or **0918-9PFIZER** (0918-9734937) and get a chance to win a Pfizer gift pack.

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Example: **PFI ED Chocolate 40 Paul Reyes**

Congratulations to the winners of last week's survey!

Should you have questions about E.D. or comments regarding this column, please write to: Pfizer mEDex (**mEDex@Pfizer.com**).
Pfizer, Inc. 23/F Ayala Life-FGU Center 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines

Pila church becomes St. Anthony's diocesan shrine

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

JULY 9, a Tuesday, was a historic and emotional moment for the people of Pila, Laguna. Their church, dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua, was declared a diocesan shrine of the saint by Bishop Francisco San Diego.

Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, whose father was born in Pila, flew from Cebu to deliver the homily. At least 16 priests led by parish priest Fr. Melchor Bercenas concelebrated the High Mass.

Cardinal Vidal, waxing nostalgic, said Pila was the first Antonine parish in the Philippines. He pointed out that the gift of God to its people was centuries of peace. He was happy to note that Pila's town center, which revolved around the historic church plaza complex, was declared a national historical landmark by the National Historical Institute.

Cora Relova, president of the Pila Historical Society Foundation, updated me on the happenings in the town. I visited the church years ago when the late Msgr. Cosico was still the parish priest.

I am a devotee of St. Anthony of Padua, so is my mother Lourdes Clemente Darang, who rushed me to the San Antonio Hospital in Laoag when I was three years old after I fell from the window of my *lola's* house. And when I was operated on at the UST Hospital on April 23, 1985, a Tuesday, my mother prayed in the chapel for my successful operation.

The sun shone

When it was time for the procession, the image of St. Anthony owned by the Alagad family was brought out. The weather was clear and fair. It did not rain, much to the joy of the people.

Pila is truly a blessed town—"bayang pinagpala" in Tagalog—a phrase crafted by Dr. Rogelio Lota, president of the parish pastoral council and dean of the Colegio de San Lorenzo.

Dr. Luciano P. Santiago researched the history of the town and church. The historical shrine marker was unveiled by Mayor Wilfredo Quiat, Governor Teresita Lazaro and Justice Lorenzo Relova.

The day before, the Armed Forces of the Philippines GHQ band performed at the town plaza, which was festooned with Vatican flags and yellow and white banners.

Devotion spreads

The church was filled with people coming from neighboring towns. They prayed and sang to St. Anthony, whose image was at the center of the altar. The old image was donated by Arcadio and Benita Relova during Spanish times. Arnel Cardinal decorated the altar.

The heart-lifting rendition of "Ave Maria" and "Panis Angelicus" by guest tenor Ramon San Agustin lent solemnity to the occasion. Pila's own choir was conducted by Bro. Manny Marfori, who trained and graduated in the University of Navarre in Pamplona, Spain.

The novena on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. begun by Msgr. Cosico will continue.

Those who cannot go to Pila for the nine Tuesdays novena can go to Ermita Church, which holds a novena at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Parish's diamond jubilee

Loreta Medina, who lives in Long Beach, California, said the town of Natividad in Pangasinan was celebrating the diamond jubilee of its church in September. The parish, Our Lady of Nativity, was established in 1927. The parish priest is Fr. Hurley John Solfelix.

In partnership with parishioners and parish leaders, Father Solfelix is having the church renovated. The altar is being refurbished, the façade, as well as the belfry and front yard of the church, redesigned. The project needs P2.8 million.

Last year saw the completion of major repairs such as the redesign of the main altar and reconstruction of ceiling and flooring. The front yard has been landscaped and is filled with flowering shrubs and plants.

Those who wish to help can call Father Solfelix at (075) 578-2083 or write to him c/o Our Lady of Nativity Parish, Natividad, Pangasinan.

Assumption feast in Leveriza

The people of Leveriza, Malate, are celebrating the feast of Our Lady of the Assumption, their patroness, with Novena Masses at 6:15 p.m. and a Concelebrated Mass on Aug. 14, 6 p.m., with Bishop Teodoro Bacani as presider. Tony and Belen Martel are the *hermanos.* Fiesta day has Masses at 6 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. *Hermanos* next year are Manolo and Ofelia Poblete.

St. Maximilian Kolbe

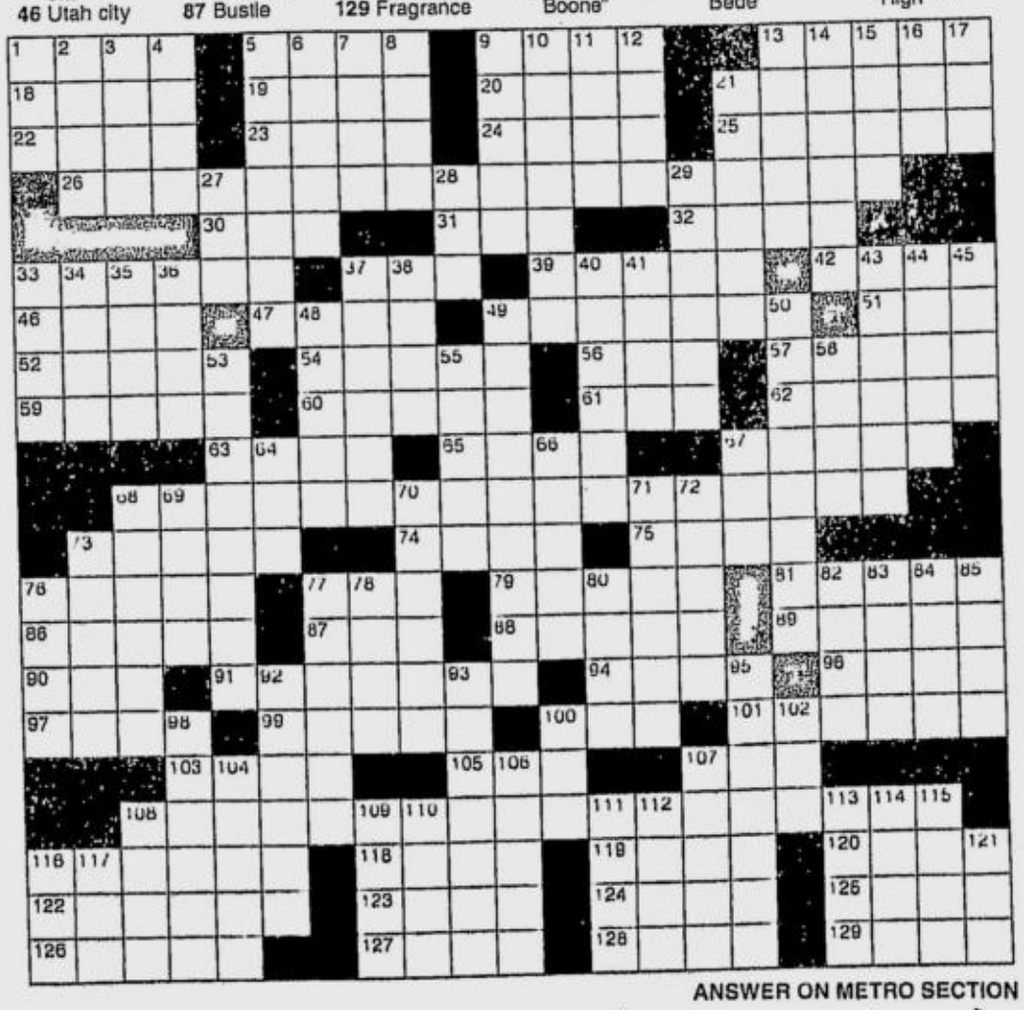
Aug. 14 is the feast day of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone — **LESSON**

ACROSS
1 Wild child
5 Charges
9 SDI devices
13 Hooch
18 Well-ventilated
19 Autumn birthstone
20 Cheeseboard choice
21 Leno's predecessor
22 Pare down a paycheck
23 Painter Bonheur
24 "— That a' Shame" ('55 hit)
25 Like some clocks
26 Start of a remark by Roy W. West
30 Ornamental vine
31 Wahine's wreath
32 Pants measurement
33 Entertain lavishly
37 Nunn or Neill
39 Service member?
42 "Black Narcissus" star
46 Utah city
47 "Phooey!"
49 Trench
51 Thieves' headquarters?
52 Fortifies with fleece
54 Close a gate
56 Actress Cassidy
57 Hardware item
59 Rottweiler's restraint
60 Hilo hello
61 Also
62 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
63 Kuwait's continent
65 Got older
67 Giraffe kin
68 Middle of remark
73 Author Gallant
74 Tara of "American Pie"
75 Top-notch
76 Clotted-cream county
77 Average
79 Brimming with gossip
81 Word with chard or Guard
86 Shaggy Sumatran
87 Bustle
88 Clear the slate
89 Lama land
90 Martini ingredient
91 Used an atomizer
94 Chair material
96 Hummus holder
97 Constellation component
99 Dud
100 Christie or Costello
101 Formal
103 Frank
105 "Evita" character
107 Lamb's dam
108 End of remark
116 Emphasize
118 Around the corner
119 "The Alienist" author Caleb
120 Fast gait
122 Loath
123 Canadian coin
124 Opinion page
125 Ballplayer Fuentes
126 Squander
127 Up-front money
128 Cole and Turner
129 Fragrance

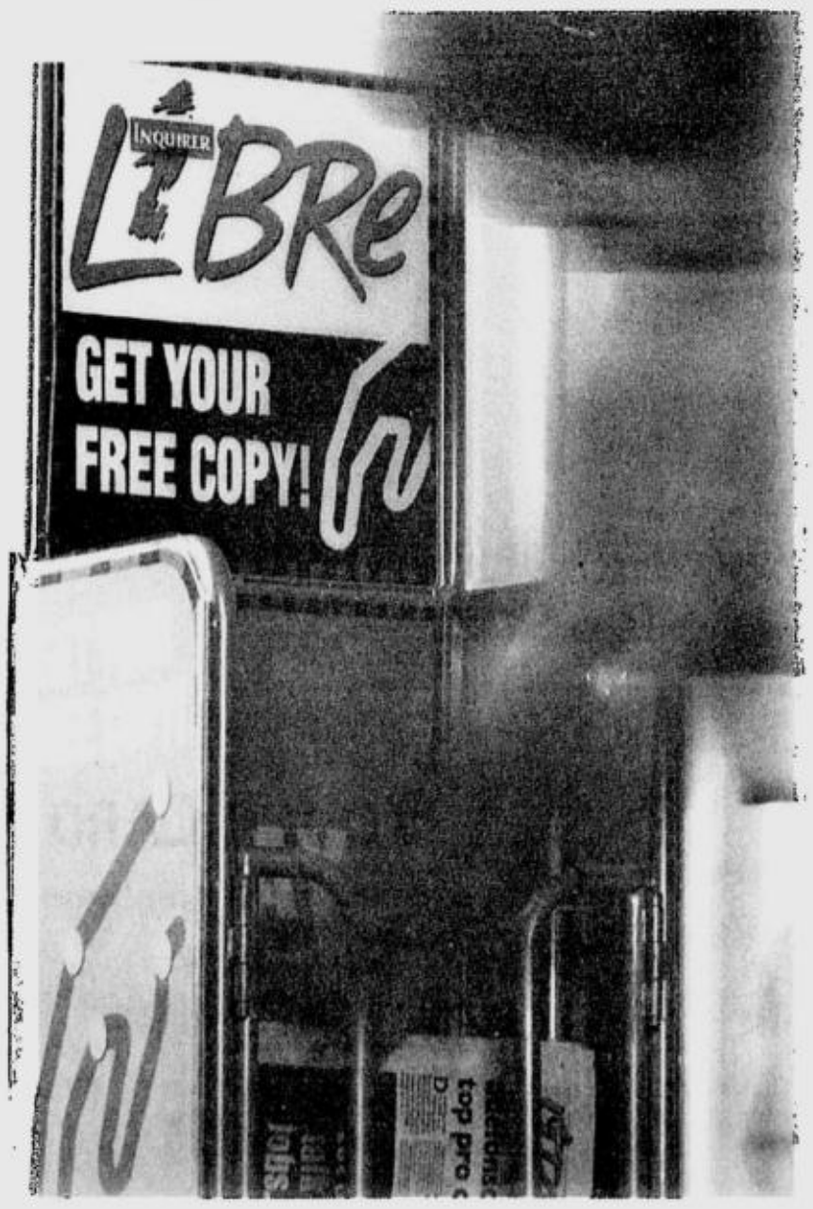
DOWN
1 "— to Me" ('64 hit)
2 Run amok
3 Shoe part
4 Anklebiter
5 "— Amber" ('47 film)
6 Adhesive ingredient
7 — Haven, CT
8 Thick slice
9 Demean
10 Hailing from Hertfordshire
11 Make money
12 Peterson of "Providence"
13 The Beatles all had them
14 Pounds the podium
15 Sonja Henie's birthplace
16 Beastly place?
17 Chang's sib
21 Incisor's neighbor
27 Zilch
28 Shade tree
29 Took care of pressing business?
33 Bakery buy
34 Ohio county
35 Actress Rowlands
36 Ed of "Daniel Boone"
37 "— 17" ('53 film)
38 Concerning
40 Flaunt
41 — even keel
43 Ochs or Zukor
44 Attorney Melvin
45 Till
48 Delon or Lesage
49 Upset
50 Most auspicious
53 Woodworker's scraps
55 Abrade
58 Out of gas
64 Slangy sib
66 Duck down
67 "You Don't — Me" ('64 hit)
68 Cigar city
69 Revlon rival
70 Opera's Martina
71 The Bahamas' capital
72 Senior member
73 Deserve
76 "All — Go to Heaven" ('89 film)
77 One who no's best?
78 Eliot's "— Bede"
80 Brazos River city
82 Clean a counter
83 Egyptian bird
84 Theater collection
85 Corset part
92 Gratify
93 Captivate
95 Director Blake
98 Mugabe of Zimbabwe
100 Potok's "My Name Is Asher —"
102 Yank opponent
104 Oater extras
106 Writer Bret
107 Swamp sight
108 Aphrodite's boyfriend
109 Cuzco native
110 Witnessed
111 Computer image
112 Wine valley
113 Graham of football
114 Parched
115 "Rosanna" rockers
116 Shorten a slat
117 Dam org.
121 Anderson's "High —"



ANSWER ON METRO SECTION

Pabilis nang pabilis, paaga nang paaga maubos ang LIBRE!

Kuha Na!



Ang Inquirer Libre ay makukuha umpisa 6:00 ng umaga, Lunes hanggang Biyernes, sa mga sumusunod na LRT at MRT stations:

LRT stations: Monumento, 5th Avenue, Abad Santos, Blumentritt, Tayuman, Carledo, Pedro Gil, Gil Puyat, Libertad, Edsa at Baclaran

MRT stations: North Avenue, Quezon Avenue, GMA Kamuning, Cubao, Shaw, Boni, Guadalupe, Magallanes at Taft

LIBRE

The best things in life are Libre

He thinks he's still in love with an old flame

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I had a girlfriend in high school. I loved her so much that I was devastated when she broke up with me in college. I wanted to ask her why, but I was afraid she would only get madder at me so I kept away. After a year, I had another girlfriend, and the fear of also losing this one made me marry her the following year.

But I never forgot my ex-girlfriend. When a friend gave me her phone number, I just had to call her (after backing out many times because of nervousness). I was bold enough to tell her that she had been very unfair to me. She admitted that she was, and apologized, so we ended the call as friends.

Although I know now that I can call her anytime, I never do. I also know that I still won't be able to meet her face to face. One time, when I saw her at the bus stop, I hid and went away.

I think I still have feelings for her, but I don't want to do anything nasty that would make my wife and my child angry with me. Please help me.

DANNY

Even now, you're already sure that you'll do something "nasty" with your ex-girlfriend. That's interesting, because for you to do something nasty with her, she first has to agree to ruin your marriage. Right now, though, there is hardly any proof that she treated your last phone talk as a resumption of your relationship.

If she was in love with you before, then there would be a possibility that your phone call had revived an old flame. But she was not. So, the wise thing for you to do now is to treat her friendly phone talk as nothing more than her expression of relief for being able to free her conscience of her guilt in being unfair to you.

Review your feelings for your ex-girlfriend in that light. Conclude that it is the same old love that you feel for her only if you can sacrifice your marriage and family for her without batting an eyelash. But if, as you indicated, you feel guilty just thinking of being disloyal to your family, then what you feel for her is no longer love, but only the ghost of love; it's time you let that ghost rest in peace.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Sleep Tight

(This bed can be yours... FREE!)

This August enjoy up to **20% OFF** on all beds and bedroom accessories. Plus, for every P50,000 worth of purchases, you get one (1) raffle ticket for a chance to win a Queen-Sized cherry wood bed from the American Impressions Collection.* See posters for details.

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Thursdays with Marisette

From page C1

greatest challenge of her life. "His grace is sufficient," she says with much conviction as she begins to share her story.

Breast cancer first hit Marisette in 1997. Back then, all she could think about was the physical side of the disease—losing an emblem of her femininity and being filled with the fear that she would be loved less for that.

It was only when her then 11-year-old daughter Raina asked, "Mom, does that mean you are going to die?" that the full impact of her disease hit her. "I was diagnosed with Stage 1, invasive ductal carcinoma," she says. "Then I had a lumpectomy followed by radiation therapy and chemotherapy. After that I began to live a less intense, more spiritual, semi-retired life. In no time I was back on my feet, better than ever."

Marisette co-founded Bosom Buddies, a breast-cancer support group in Makati City. "I continued to be vigilant with my health to the point of being overzealous. But I'm really that kind of person, wanting to be in total control," she says.

THURSDAY GIRLS. Assumption high school classmates, who act as Marisette's support caregivers

Scare

In December 1999, Marisette had a routine CT scan that detected a 2-cm lesion in her liver, which required a CT scan-guided fine-needle biopsy.

"The scare was overwhelming, but it was a false alarm," she says. "The results were benign and, really, that was my best Christmas ever! I felt like I had a new lease on life."

The world came crashing in June 2000 when Marisette was diagnosed with breast cancer that has metastacized in the liver and the bones.

"My 2-cm lesion was now 11 cm and has become multiple," she says. "I was given six months. I had no time to theorize. Everything happened in a week—family and friends mobilized and acted for me and I dealt with concerns in a detached manner—I was physically present, but like a third party, [I was] witnessing events, making decisions of a lifetime, [planning] chaotic preparations for my departure and [absorbing] the anguish of my loved ones."

That same month, Marisette married Ricky Recto, father of her daughter Raina, but left for San Francisco the day after her wedding.

"I prayed hard about the marriage and sought counsel and I really wanted to put order in my life," she says.

Raina, whom Marisette describes as a clone of her father, lives with Marisette in San Francisco; Ricky visits often. They are, as she describes it, the very best of friends.

WITH GOOD friends Rio Diaz-Cojuangco and the late Toro Yabut

WITH THE THURSDAY girls in San Francisco, all breast cancer survivors

In San Francisco, Marisette found love and support in her family and close friends and was blessed by a team of highly competent and kind doctors and medical staff. Everyone in her family, with the exception of one brother, lives in California, just a flight or drive from Fresno, where she is based.

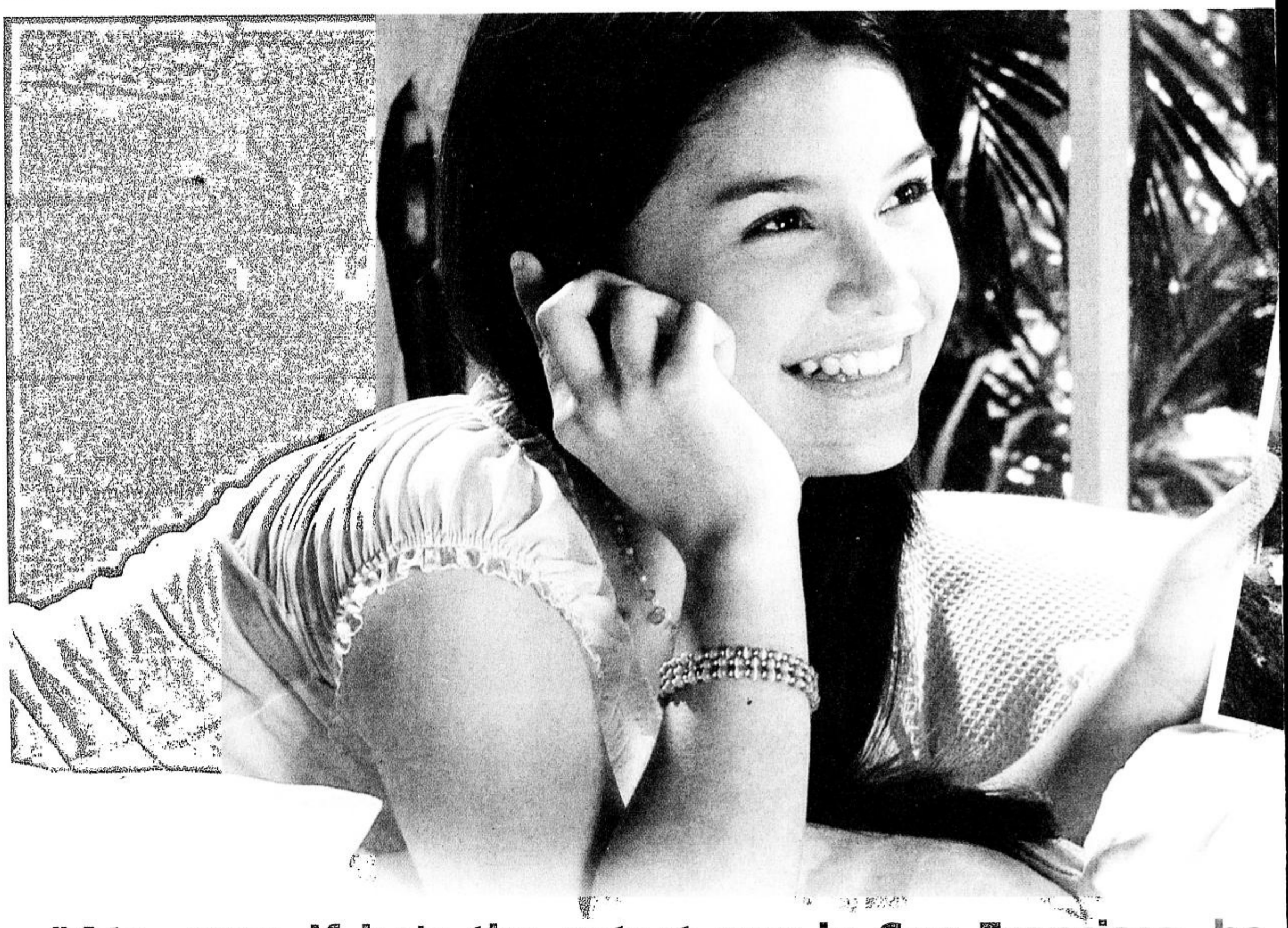
Her high-school classmates provided moral support; they accompanied her every time she went to her Thursday sessions at Stanford. "They've plotted a schedule for the next year or so—taking turns. It's amazing," Marisette says.

Rally

Her best friends have come to visit several times, boosting her spirit in the process. The Revilla sisters, who are like her second family, visited twice, propping up her morale even more.

Co-patient Rio Diaz has been like a sister to her these past two years, as they each battle the Big C. They walk together and laugh a lot, with a constant source of joy and support to the other. "God is good. When one of us is down, the other one is up. It has never happened that Rio and I were down on the same day," Marisette says, smiling.

Marisette and Rio are both unafraid to face what the future has inevitably in store for them, so they are able to talk about death freely. "One time, I had made inquiries about cremation services and told Rio that by US law, there was a 72-hour period after the death before the cremation could take place," Marisette says. "When Rio heard this, she blurted out, 'What? You mean to say they're going to make us wait *pa*?' My daughter took one long, strange look at both us and said, 'Tita Rio, I don't think you're going to have to wait.' So Rio and I looked at each other and



we both burst out laughing!"

Clearly, even in the face of such a sad and serious topic, these women who share an unshakeable faith also share an unsinkable sense of humor as well.

"It's been over two years since I was diagnosed with metastatic cancer and my prognosis was poor. I was told that treatment was based on control and maintenance of quality of life rather than a cure. Meaning, I will be on treatment for life," Marisette explains. "Many of my dear friends who were diagnosed similarly at Stage 4 have just passed on like soldiers at war and I will not deny that it has been a roller-coaster ride this second time around. But I also believe that God has better equipped me physically, emotionally and spiritually this time around."

WITH CLOSE friends Rossi Reyes, Bettina Aboitiz, Tess Araneta, Pita Hocson, Neny Eduque, Lorna Lopez and Claudia Tambunting

Many lessons

The disease has certainly taught Marisette many invaluable lessons, which she tries to impart to everyone who comes into her life—family, friends, other patients and even strangers. Listening to her, you cannot help but be moved and inspired by the courage of this young woman who faces death with the grace and dignity of one who is filled with the peace that transcends all understanding.

"I've been stripped of my health, my personal life, my career and the comforts of my home," Marisette says. "In my reflective moments, I ask, 'What truly is the purpose of my life?' No doubt, my purpose for living is to be around for my daughter. When I explore deeper, I realize that life is certainly precious and so I fight for it with all my might."

As she continues in her journey, Marisette has learned many things. "First of all, I've learned that nothing is impossible with God. God is so good! Before, I used to just know Him theoretically, but now I really feel His presence on a day-to-day basis, and He lives inside my heart," she says.

BEST FRIENDS. Marisette with Cita Revilla-Yabut and Pilar Prieto-Lorenzo

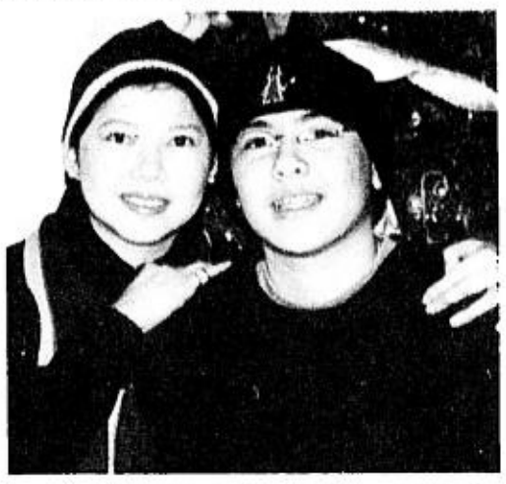
"Secondly, I try to practice the principles of attitudinal healing, which teach that the essence of our being is love. Health ultimately results from inner peace. If you carry ill feelings and hatred in your heart, it will be very difficult to heal. Half the battle is really in your outlook and in your spirit."

Marisette also says that one needs to speak and live with one's heart. "I no longer feel hesitant about sharing what's on my mind and my thoughts. We are all here to empower one another," she says.

"Next, you need to prioritize what is most important but also learn to be flexible. I used to be such a rigid person and would easily get agitated when things weren't not done according to the way I wanted them to. Now, I've just learned to let things go. It's really ironic, but affliction seems to have brought out the best in me."

Focusing one's energies on the healing that needs to be done is another important lesson that Marisette has learned. "You have to learn to shut out the unimportant things and really focus on yourself and what needs to be healed. I've been blessed in the sense that I've learned to shut everything out and set things aside when I need to concentrate and focus on getting well. My thinking is, 'I'll deal with that later,' and it works."

Marisette smiles. "Never fear to share your anger and affection," she says. "I used to be the type to hold things back or just take things. Now, when I'm mad, I'll tell you, but then after a while, I also say sorry if I hurt your feelings. And if I feel like saying 'I love you,' 'Take care' or whatever, I will tell you. Life is short, you'll never know, so better to say things and have no regrets."



THE RECTOS. Ralph, Vilma and Ryan; Plinky and Armand; lawyer Rafy and wife Carmen; Marisette Raina and Ricky

NEW Year 2002 with Raina, who shaved her head in sympathy with Mom

Finally, Marisette says that she has learned to embrace living with dying. Though clearly, she will admit she has her "moments," she will also tell you that these are moments between her and God alone. "I write a lot in my journal, I pray, pray and pray, and there are also moments when I just have to cry and pour it out of my chest," she explains.

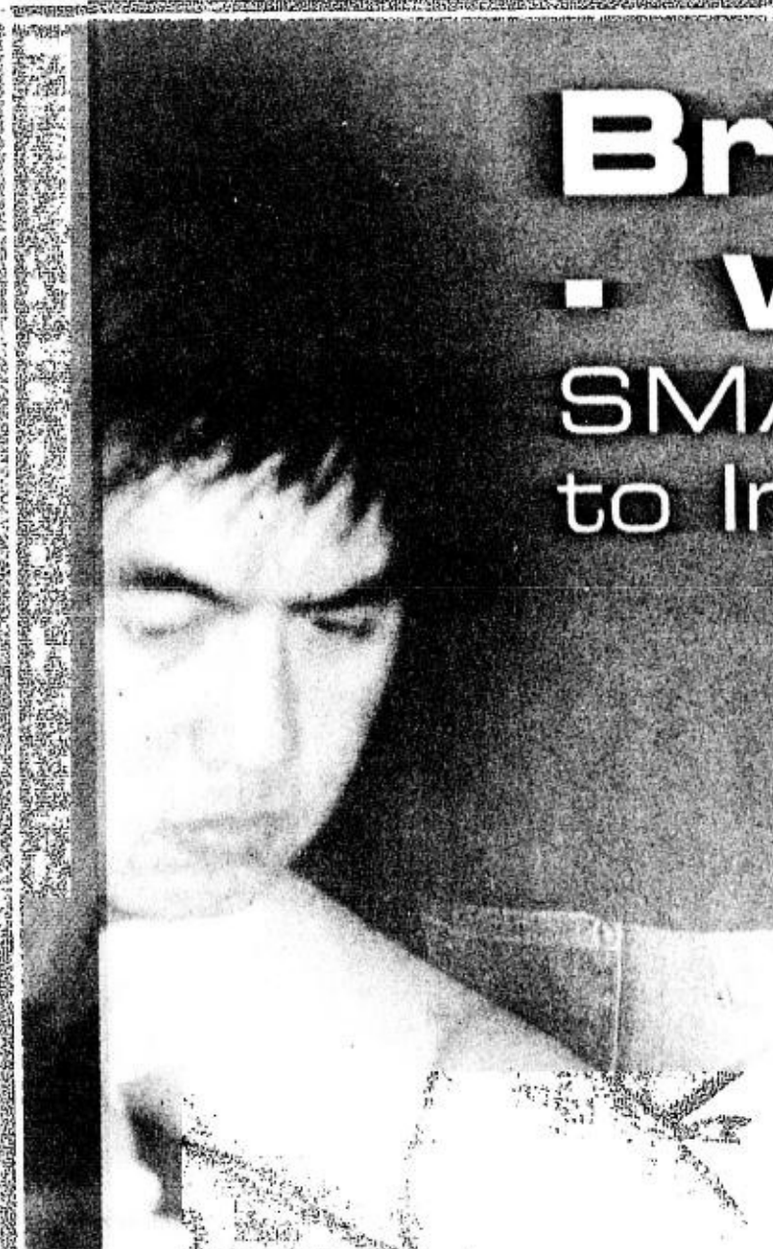
"You know, we are all going to die someday. We just don't know when. I live life to the fullest each day knowing that anything is possible, so I've chosen to embrace both life and death together and leave everything to God."

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

LAUNCHING of Bosom Buddies breast cancer support group

British Invasion with a Twist

SMART Sends Big Fish to Invade UK Club Scene!



Local clubbing exponents Big Fish will be exporting the Philippine brand of dance and fun to the UK this month via a tour of Europe's premiere party places supported by SMART Communications. The group will be making the rounds of England's top clubs, highlighted by a set by Big Fish resident DJ Tuck Cheah at Slinky on August 16, and their participation at Creamfields, the largest dance festival in the world, on August 24.

Big Fish and SMART have been teaming up in recent months to bring Filipino partyfolk Europe's most talked-about clubbing experiences, including the highly successful and much talked-about parties Chicane, Slinky, Gatecrasher, Simply Ibiza and - just last night - Godskitchen.

According to Cheah, their UK trip is a three-pronged incursion into the heart of the global dance scene:

"*We're hoisting three flags over there: that of the country, of SMART and of Big Fish. We want to show how a Filipino party brand, with the support of the world-class mobile phone company that SMART is, can put our country on the map of the truly global phenomenon that is clubbing,*" says the Malaysian-born yet Philippine-based Cheah.

The UK sojourn likewise allows Big Fish to experience the wide array of services SMART is able to offer to its subscribers - even overseas.

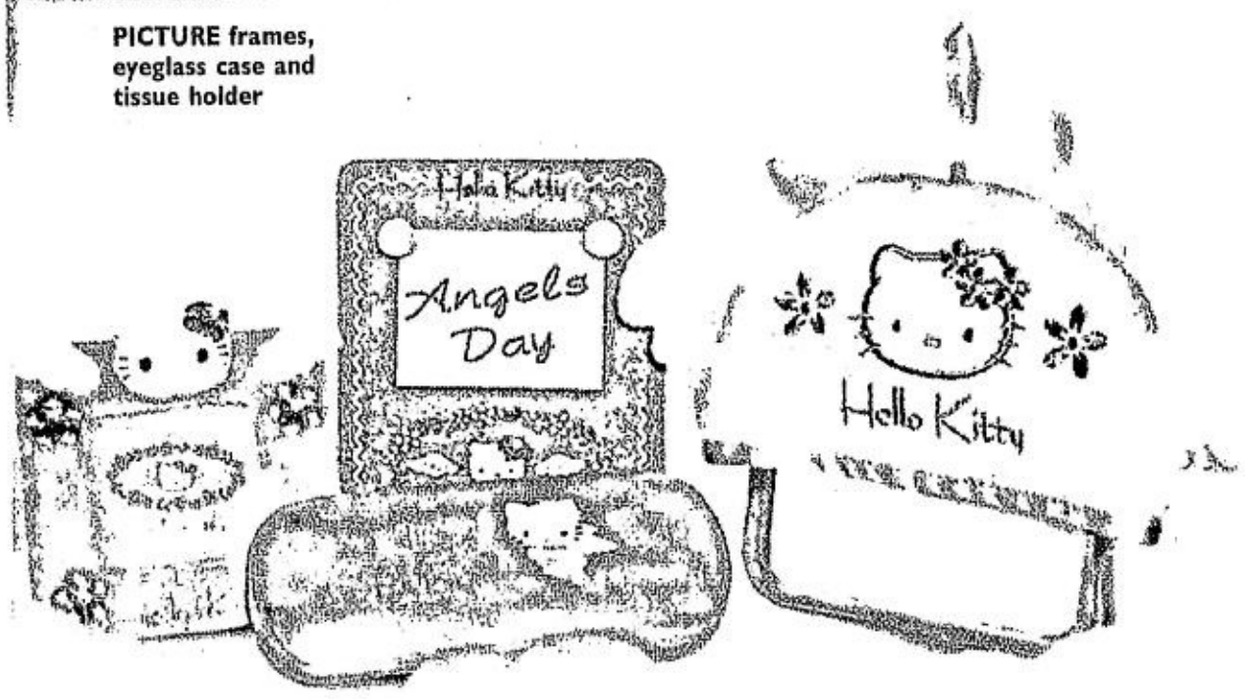
Big Fish senior partner Domini Primero, who will be on the two-week trip along with wife Joanne Quintas, Cheah and his wife Pixie, says he is glad to have SMART with them in the UK.

"*My wife Joanne,*" he shares, "*is already looking forward to shopping. When I told her that she could use her SMART Money to shop over there - instead of carrying around foreign currency - she let out a big smile.*"

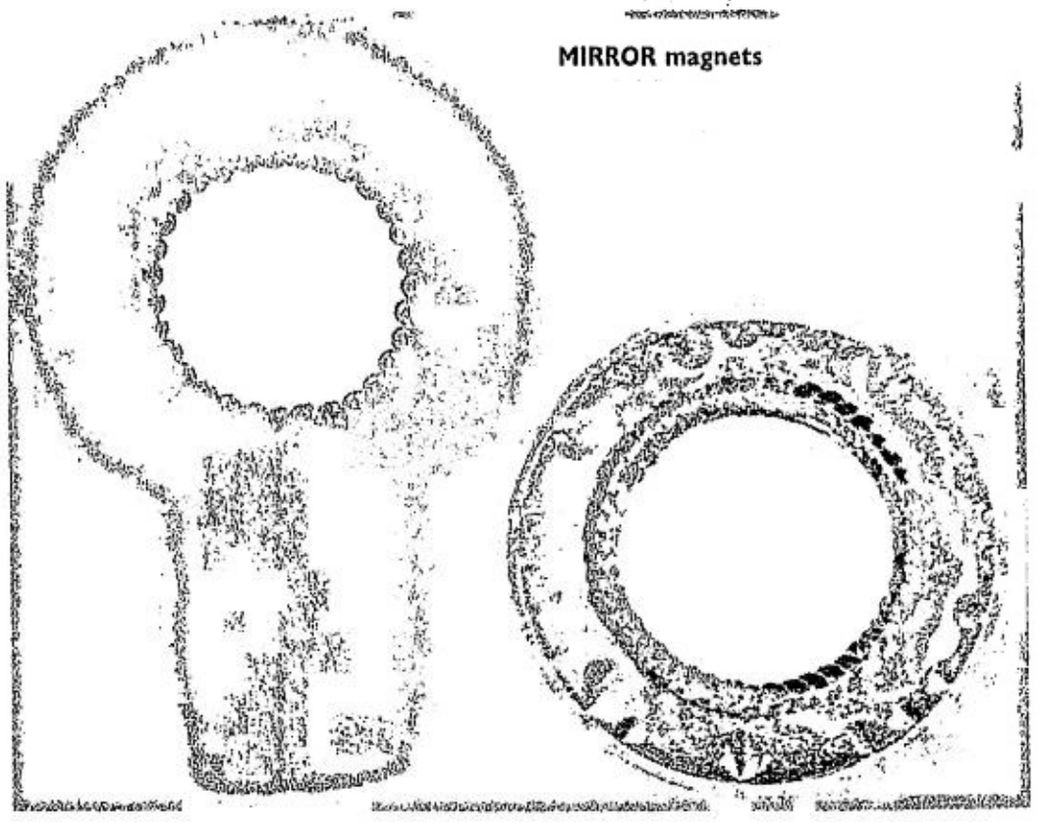
Apart from enjoying the conveniences of SMART Money, Big Fish will also be texting and calling each other, and keeping in touch with their business contacts and friends here in the country, through the International Roaming services of the network.

"*This trip is a dream for us,*" agree Tuck and Domini. "*Thanks to SMART, for being Simply Amazing!*"

PICTURE frames, eyeglass case and tissue holder



MIRROR magnets



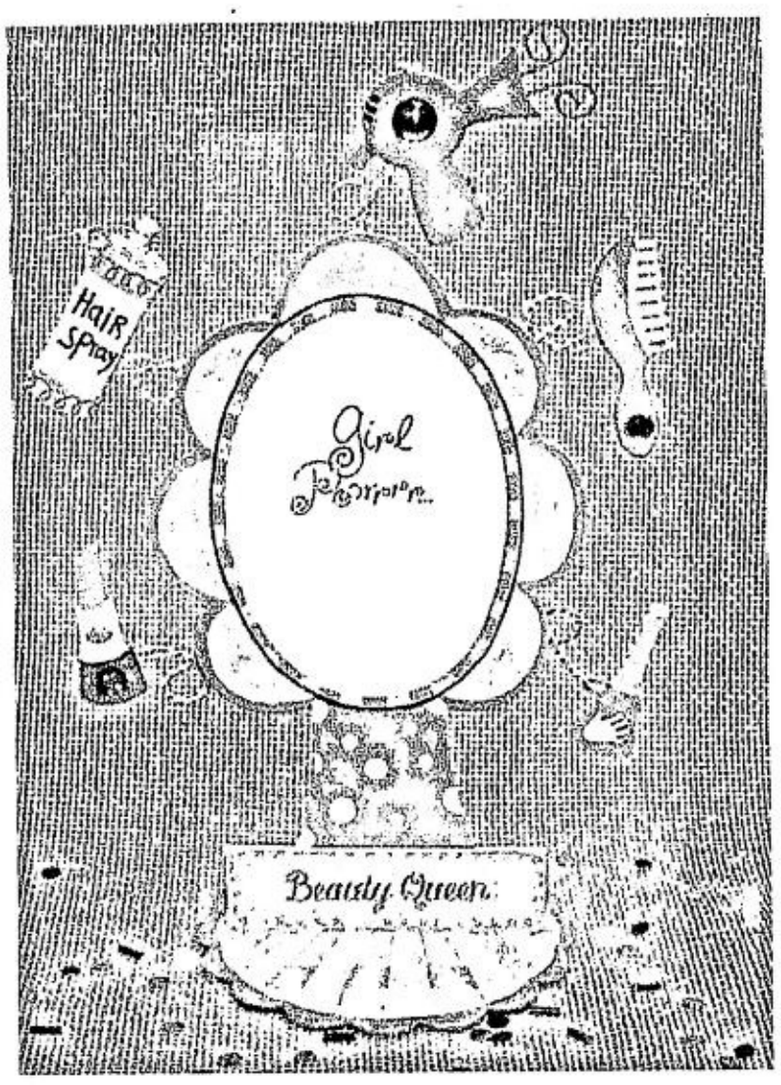
Every day is gift day

YOU don't need an occasion to give a gift, but Gift Gate gives you 30 reasons to celebrate every month.

Celebrate the miracle of birth on Son's and Daughter's Day (Aug. 11) with Russ Baby's Expressions of love that will be even more special on this particular day. Bond with family and friends over a glass of lemonade on Lemonade Day (Aug. 20). Brighten this day up even more with the Sanrio collection of drinking glasses in heart-warming designs. For those who simply want to give a gift for no special reason, Just Because Day (Aug. 27) is perfect. Mirror magnets with sequins and fashionable plush mirrors from Russ will surely brighten up a person's day, just because.

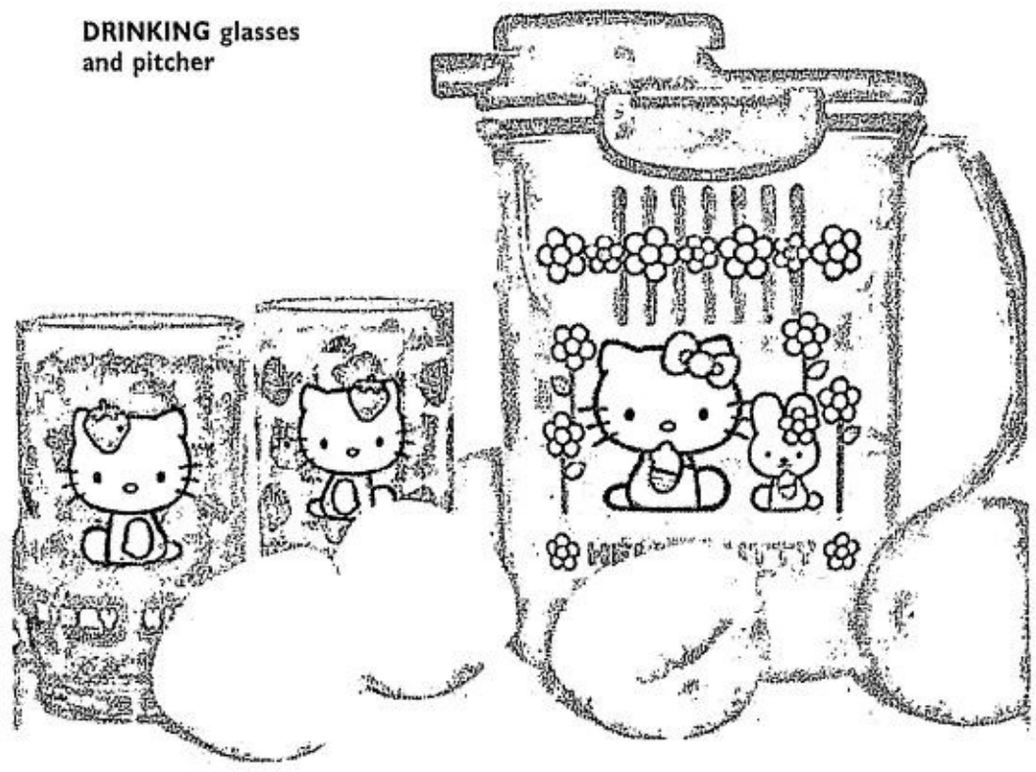
A big fan of Magic Johnson or Madonna? Join them as they celebrate their birthdays on Aug. 14 (Magic Johnson) and Aug. 16 (Madonna) with special gifts worthy to remember your idols with.

And since Gift Gate is on a storewide sale this whole month, simple occasions should never go unnoticed.

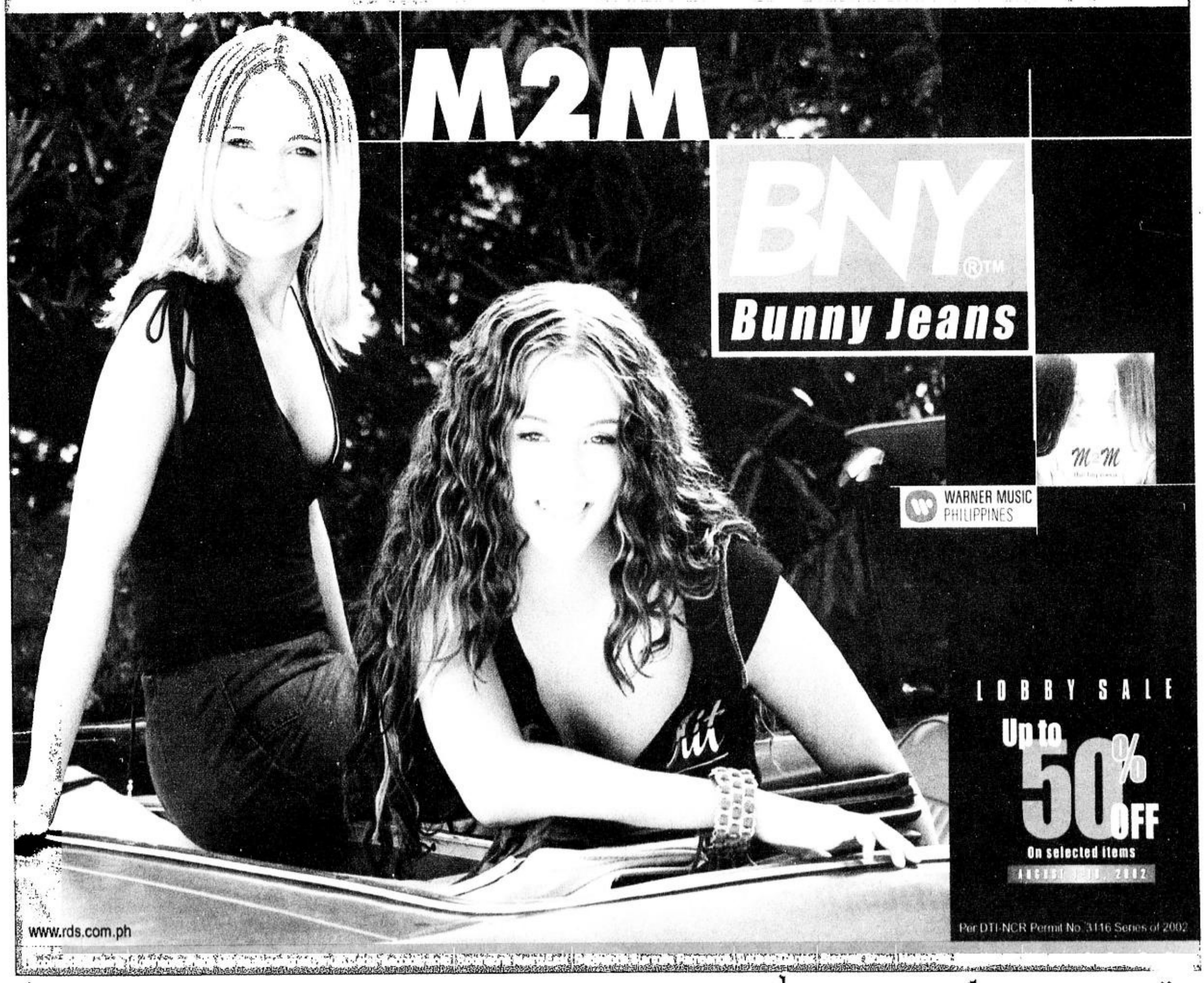


FASHIONABLE picture frame

DRINKING glasses and pitcher



Robinsons Department Store



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making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

UNISEX toilet at Starbucks in Greenbelt 3

Comfort zones

Thank God for restrooms that depart from the discomfiting crowd

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Romy Homillada

IN THE OLD days, comfort rooms were practical—no fuss, no nonsense. Nothing beyond the bare necessities. The mandatory toilet bowl and ample water supply, and if luck was on your side, a roll of tissue paper, to boot. And, boy, did you need Lady Luck for the place to be spanking clean and pleasant smelling.

But dissatisfaction over public restrooms over the years did not fall on deaf ears.

One suspects the complaints came mostly from women. The female of the species is extra cautious when it comes to going to the can. She doesn't just get off the bus and rush to the next tree to unload her bladder. She holds it and waits until the bus gets to a rest area with a proper toilet. Why Filipino men can't do that is one of life's sorrowful mysteries.

On a bus going to La Union, for instance, the guys would scream, "*Isbul*," and the driver would have no choice but to hit the curb. The men would then file out of the bus and line up against the bushes or a wall and, without qualms about hygiene or propriety, succumb to that blissful release of liquid from their bodies.

As nature would have it, women do have to sit, not squat till their quads start a-throbbing—and that's enough to justify their divine right to superior toilet service.

Indeed, times have changed. As today's lifestyle gets more complicated than ever, restrooms have kept up with the pace.

Aesthetic considerations

Wider cubicles for the handicapped have become mandatory, and so have liquid soap, tissue paper, hand dryers. Comfort has taken its full meaning in the comfort rooms of some establishments.

Consideration is given to aesthetics—flowers atop bowls, lounges for clients to relax in, large mirrors for that hasty retouch (okay, for rehearsing that close-up smile). Others have gone high-tech, with sensors that can sometimes drive you nuts, especially when they don't flush right away. If you've tried waving your hands in the air like a Jedi trying to locate that tiny sensor, then you get the picture. Some women, in fact, even try to sit again, and again, just to get the sensor going. (If done properly, that would make for one excellent butt exercise.)

COMFORT/ p.D2

DANNY Dalena's "Ihing Talo," Jai-alai Series, 1976

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4. PLDT reserves the right not to sell Caller ID to subscribers whose lines are temporarily/ permanently disconnected or if the line has technical limitations.
5. All purchases must be on a cash basis.
6. Caller ID units will not be delivered to the subscriber's residence. Subscriber will have to purchase units at the PLDT Business Offices and its authorized dealers.
7. Activation of the Mega Bundle service will be within 5 working days from the date the application was approved and paid for, provided that the line does not have technical limitations.
8. A customer who chooses to discontinue the Mega Bundle service must call 171 to deactivate the service before the end of the 1-month trial period. A Service Order Number will be issued to the subscriber as proof of downgrade from the Mega Bundle service to the Caller ID Value Deal worth P79.00 or the Caller ID service worth P75.00. Non-notification will mean continuance of the Mega Bundle service and regular monthly fees of P99.00 will be charged after the trial period based on the letter of agreement signed by the customer during his application.
9. To start the Call Waiting service on your phone, simply press *77#
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11. Promo period is from June 24 to August 15, 2002.

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FAMILY-FRIENDLY restrooms at The Podium

AT COUNTRY Waffles, hygiene is a priority.

Comfort zones

From page D1

The Podium at the Ortigas Center exceeds expectations. The restrooms are squeaky-clean. The women's room also has a urinal for little boys. Truth is few moms are comfortable letting a young son go to the men's room alone. The evening news has carried far too many reports of pedophiles preying on little boys in public bathrooms.

To round out the family-friendly theme, the Podium toilet is also equipped with a retractable diaper changer, even in the men's room. Dads toting babies can right there and then prove they're not relics from the Jurassic era.

Country Waffles restaurants go beyond the requisite soap and tissue. Their restrooms are also stocked with rubbing alcohol, hand lotion, air freshener-disinfectant and face powder (for those too cheap to carry their own).

Heeding the global call for water conservation, the toilet bowls have two buttons. One is for the usual flush, just enough to wash down the liquid. The other is for, well, the more urgent and decidedly embarrassing call of nature. And here's where that air freshener comes in handy. We have to respect other people's right to breathe clean air, right?

At The Kitchen, SM Megamall branch, the comfort rooms are simple, basic and elegant despite the constricted space. A slim mirror above the bowl that goes all the way to the ceiling gives a magical, flattering reflection of even a claustrophobic's bulging bod. But you do get an ample view of your rear as you take off your bottoms, though. Worry not. With a mirror like that, nothing can go wrong.

Fresh flowers before the mirror make the process of peeing relaxing, if not sacred.

Nothing like water

Whatever they say about hygienic wipes, there's nothing like water. Acknowledging this need, the new Greenbelt 3 restrooms have handheld wash sprays in each cubicle. But be extra careful—maneuver the equipment properly because you, or the person in the next cubicle, can get drenched. No water fights, please. And don't look for that ubiquitous flush lever either. Welcome to the 21st century and the world of high-tech Greenbelt 3 sensors.

The epitome of restrooms, hands down, is at Rustan's Makati. Spacious, clean and always well supplied with water, soap and paper, it also has a lounge area where you can relax and skim through magazines after a hard day's shopping or while waiting for a friend to finish up. Let's just hope you won't need a book for that. What's best is... it's for free!

Other malls, such as Glorietta and Shangri-La Plaza Mall, offer the same amenities for a price, but you don't mind paying because there are no lines and the facilities are well maintained. If you have an Ayala Center Discount Plus card, you can use the pay-toilets for free.

Baguio has also adopted the pay-toilet scheme. There are two prices, of course. You pay double the price for, as the ticket puts it, "defacating," and that's only fair because the situation calls for more water and in the City of Pines, water is always in short supply.

A few establishments, however, have to make do with ultra-limited space. Take Starbucks at Greenbelt 3. Since it obviously can't do without a wash room, its solution is a unisex toilet. Don't be surprised to find a man's urinal beside the standard toilet bowl.

Stepping into one of these unisex toilets for the first time might make you think you've entered the wrong room. In that case, be cool, backtrack slowly, look for the waiter who directed you toward the toilet, and very gently ask, "Did you mistake me for a transvestite, buddy?" If he says he's sorry, it's time to shave the body hair and hit the gym. If he says it's the only one they've got, go back and do what you have to do.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

"GENTLEMEN" by Dalena

THERE'S nothing like water at Greenbelt 3.

THE IMPECCABLE restrooms of Rustan's Makati.

FRESH flowers at The Kitchen in SM Megamall

Transcending toilet humor

ANGRY scribblings on the walls bespeak the turbulent martial-law years.

Long before Tito, Vic and Joey, artist Danny Dalena was already at it, except he used his art to make searing political statement

FOR ARTIST Danny Dalena, character makes a toilet. The drenched and dirty floors, graffiti walls, the unbearable stench, people who mingle around the toilets and the overall impression haunted him no end. Not the typical activist who joined political rallies and screamed slogans, Dalena got his trusty pen working and vent the country's frustrations through drawing.

And so the Toilet Series was born, just like the martial-law babies. The collection is a reflection of the turbulent martial-law years in the '70s.

"*Katimpla ng panahon 'yun, eh. Masyadong maamoy, mabaho 'yung panahon ni* Marcos. *Parang lahat ng sama ng loob ng mga kababayan natin doon sinusuka sa banyo*," Dalena says.

The series has drawings of the dirtiest, most unsanitary toilets in the world.

Graffitis

Dalena says he didn't linger long inside the toilet when sketching. Longtime friend Recah Trinidad stood guard outside the door while Dalena worked inside. "*Kailangan ko'ng magmadali dahil talagang masidhi 'yung amoy, at may nakikita ako doon na mawawalan ka ng gana sa sarili mo*," Dalena says.

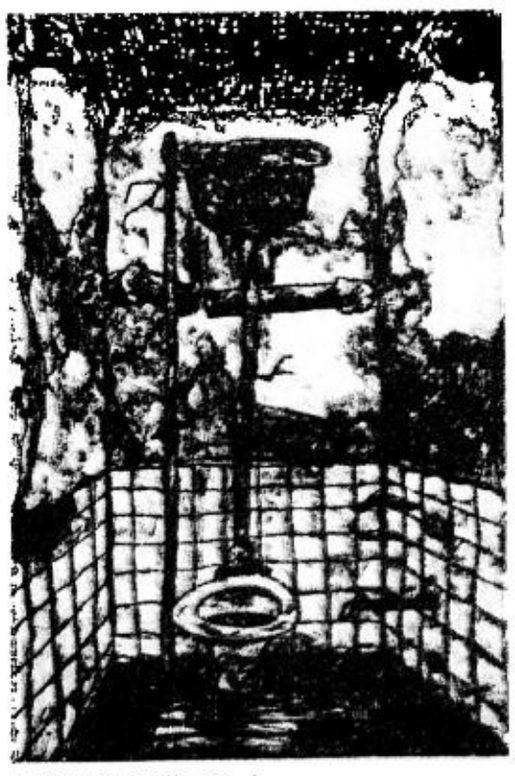
But what makes a stinking toilet different from other unspeakably horrible urinals that dot the metropolis? You've seen one, you've seen them all. Trust an artist to know the difference, down to the minute details. "*Hindi lang basta madumi... 'Yung kilos, pangangatawan at lahat na kaiba sa nakikita kong pangkaraniwan*," he says.

The graffiti, for instance, were among his favorites. He enjoyed reading them, especially when an activist's anger was written down and somebody answered it, presumably a military man. Still there were the banters on a man's penis or caricatures of lovers making out. As much as he liked injecting humor and laughter, he says the important element is "*may patama*."

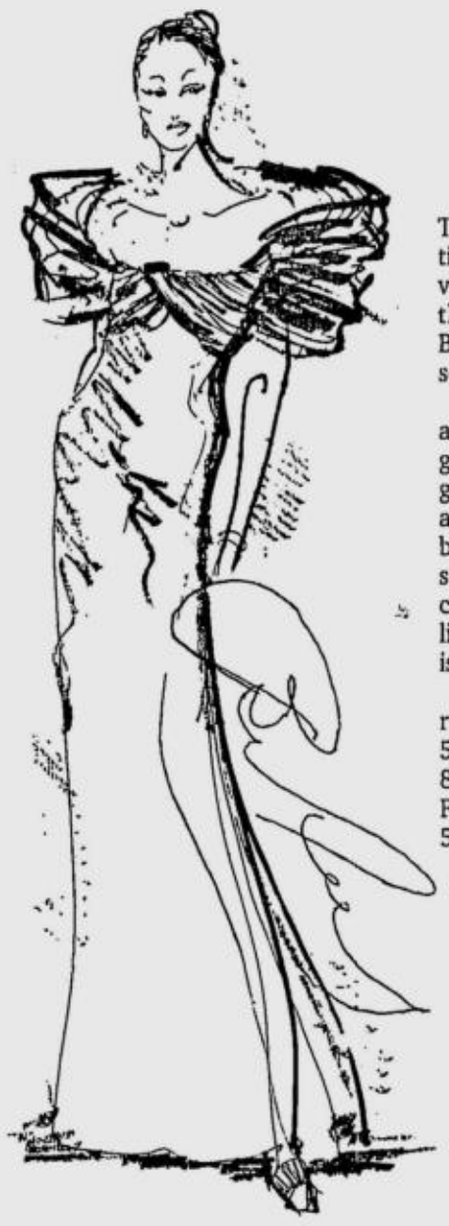
About 30 drawings were made for the series, with some of them translated into oil paintings. Today, Dalena still draws inspiration from that experience, especially when his painting requires a scene inside the toilet. But the question is, would he dare do it again?

No, he says. Not that the lure of reeking odor is gone, but because the Toilet Series belonged to a different time. "*Dinaanan ko 'yan na talagang buong puso ko naramdaman. Ayokong ipeke 'yan.*" ***Anne A. Jambora***

"GOD," 1971



FROM his Toilet Series



Deadline for Ben Farrales Foundation scholarship set

THE PHILIPPINE International School of Fashion invites all eligible fashion enthusiasts to apply for the Ben Farrales Foundation scholarship.

Application is available to all young individuals regardless of sex, race, religion or national origins, aged 17-24. Selection will be based on an overall assessment of the individual's career potential. The deadline for submission of entries is on Aug. 31.

Call Andree Belanger, director general of PISF at 525-7873 or 524-7686 to 89 local 286 or 285; or Ben Farrales at 525-3421 or 524-8439.

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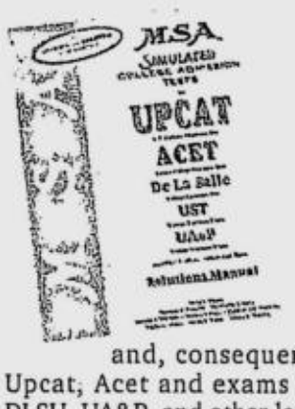
Reviewer books for college admission exams

COLLEGE life is a free arena of learning where students are presented with limitless possibilities and, with it, greater responsibilities.

It calls for some preparations, though. For most incoming freshmen, the initial and probably most pressing concern is to get admitted to the college or university of their choice.

With the "season" of college admission exams soon to start, graduating high-school students are now finding ways to ready themselves for the "big" exam. Quite a number seek for professional help and enroll in review classes, like the ones conducted by MSA Academic Advancement Institute, the country's leading review and tutorial center.



Testimonials reveal that review classes help a lot in preparing for the college entrance tests and, consequently, passing the Upcat, Acet and exams administered by DLSU, UA&P, and other leading colleges and universities in the Philippines.

The supplementary reviewer books, published by MSA, cover the subjects that are included in most college entrance exams. These contain practice tests similar to the actual entrance tests given by the country's prestigious colleges and universities.

These reviewer books have been grouped together in a progressive pattern to complete MSA's 4-step "Self-Review for College Admission Test" program, launched for the first time this year.

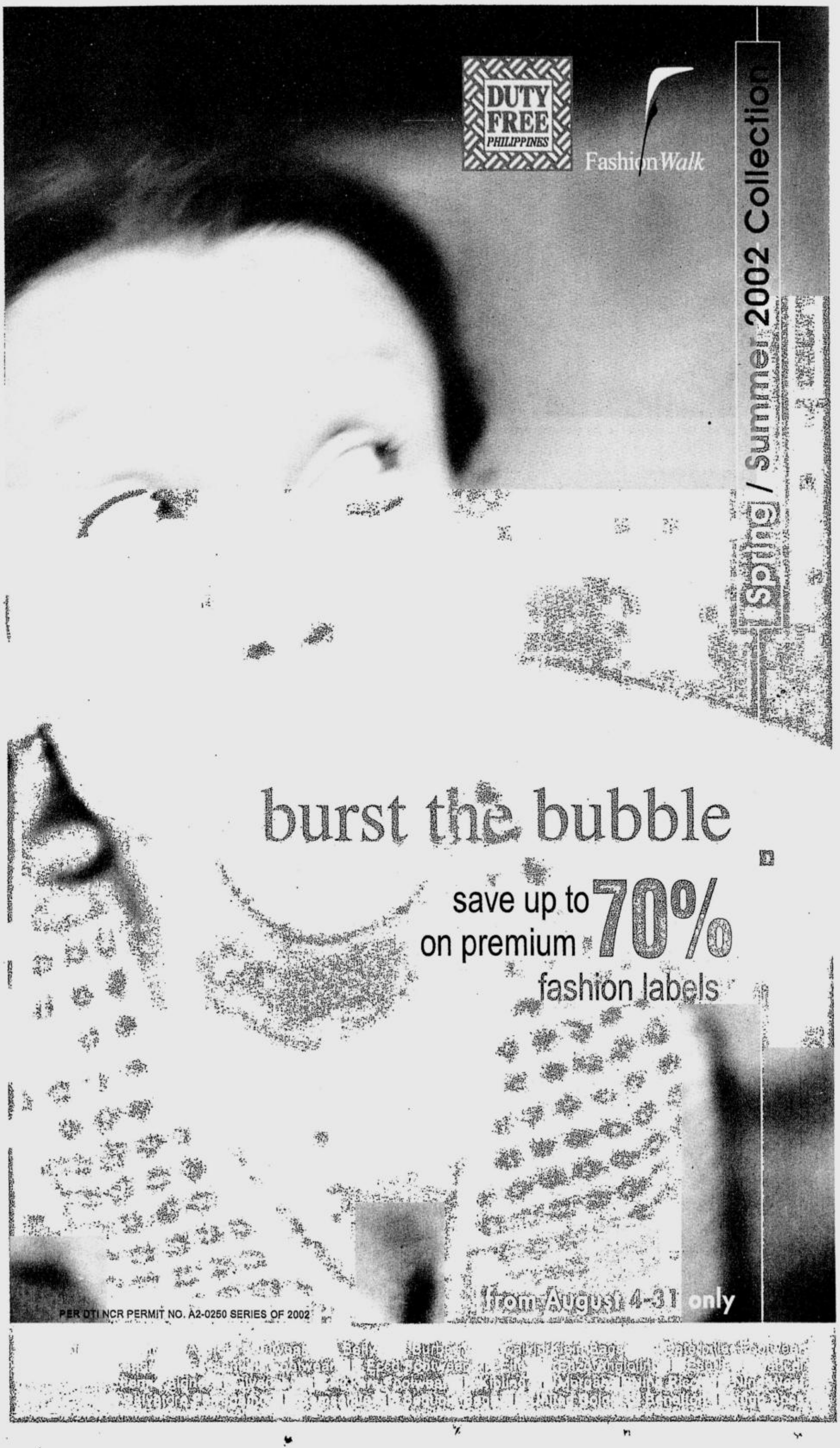
For a head start, students can test themselves by answering 3,227 challenging questions contained in the Step 1 Books. These cover different topics in Mathematics, Science, English, Abstract Reasoning and Inductive Reasoning.

Next is to go over Step 2 Books, which present more difficult questions. The MSA Review Questions 1 for Acet and Upcat is a general review material covering various subjects. The MSA Review Questions 2 for Acet and Upcat is divided into two sections: section 1 is a dry-run test material for Acet, while section 2 is for Upcat.

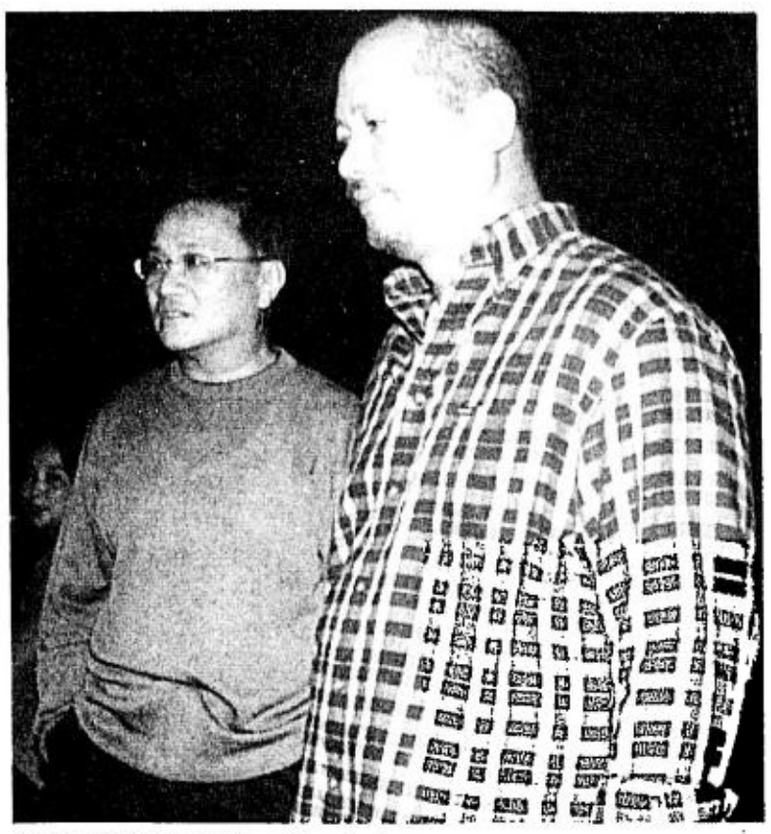
Finally, students can advance to Step 3 Books. A twin volume of MSA Simulated College Admission Tests consists of four simulated college entrance test modules. In Upcat-like style, the fourth module contains Math and Science questions worded in Filipino. The books come with a Solutions Manual presenting solutions and discussion for each of the questions.

After practicing their skills in various subjects by going through the test reviewers, students have the option to join the MSA 4-hour Dry Run Exam, which comprises the 4th Step of the Self-Review program. Administered at MSA review centers, the exam is designed to give students a feel of the actual test and provide a measure of their readiness to take the big test.

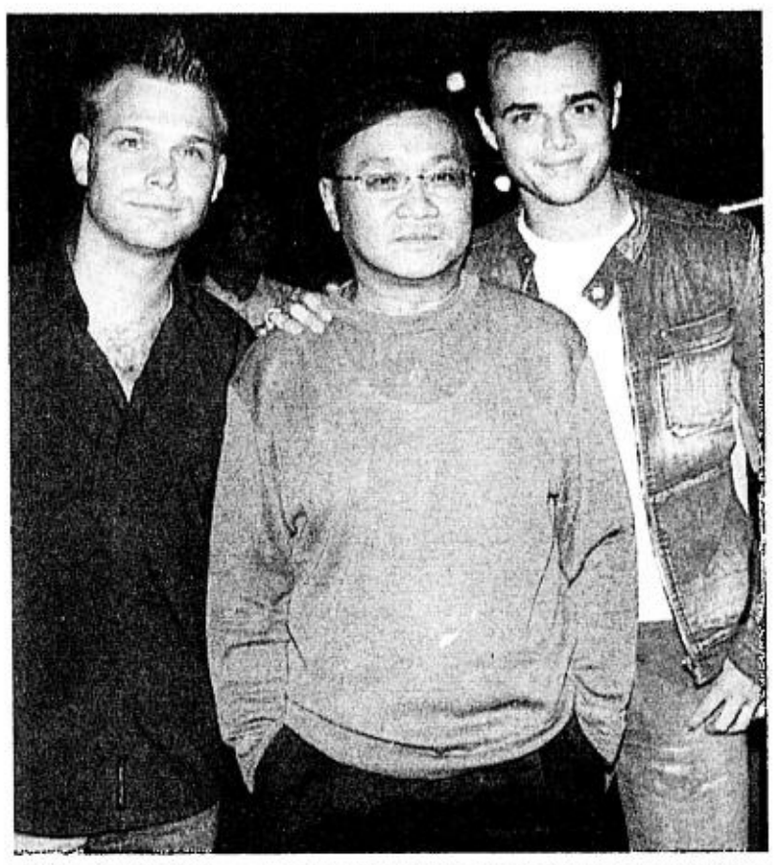
Steps 1, 2 and 3 books are available in sets at all National Book Store branches and MSA review centers. Visit MSA Academic Advancement Institute at 315 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, QC, or call 925-7544, 929-9159, 435-6062, 850-6550 or 646-8245.



MANNY Pangilinan with PLDT director Helen Y. Dee, INQUIRER board chair Marixi Prieto, Talk 'N Text coach Bill Bayno and team manager Frankie Lim



WITH PLDT chair Tony Boy Cojuangco



MVP with Christian and Ben, members of the teen pop sensation A1

Simply amazing night for MVP

THE UNUSUAL birthday celebration was billed as "An Evening with MVP." And rightly so for the man who is PLDT and Metro Pacific's most valuable player.

The normally low-key PLDT president and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan told the huge crowd of well-wishers, "I'm very proud of the business decisions we've made and the faith we had in returning to the Philippines, and very proud of the people who work with me in transforming PLDT and Metro Pacific into the market leaders that they are today."

Present that evening at The Fort's NBC Tent were power players from PLDT—chair Antonio O. Cojuangco, EVPs Dick Zarate and Tony Samson; SVPs Ito Ramirez, Ricky Vargas and Al Panlilio; FVPs Eugene Garcia and Ramon Santiago; VPs Butch Jimenez, Butch Meily and Manny Dizon; ePLDT co-managing directors Ray Espinosa and Ariel Roda.

Smart's top brass also came in full force: president Polly Nazareno was joined by Boy Martirez, corporate communications head, Mon Isberto, VIP accounts head, and Julie Carceller.

That evening, celebrant and guests gave themselves up to the pure fun and entertainment provided by Anna Fegi, Bituin Escalante, Ryan Cayabyab, Audie Gemora, Carlo Orosa, Gary Valenciano, and the English band A1. Kris Aquino and Boy Abunda hosted the festivities highlighted by an exclusive no-holds-barred interview with MVP.

Other guests from Metro Pacific and related companies included Landco Pacific Corp. president and CEO Alfred Xerez-Burgos Jr., Metro Pacific's Auggie Palisoc, Negros Navigation Company's special advisor Seumas Gallagher, Metro Pacific CEO Joey Lim, Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. SVP Vic Tinsay, Metro Pacific VP David Nugent and NBC COO Marco Borlongan.

"Tonight is extremely moving and special," said Pangilinan, very touched and surprised. "Certainly, this night is evidence that the 20,000-plus employees of PLDT, Metro Pacific and their sister companies are led by passionate people, driven to excel, loyal to their employees and customers, and most importantly, committed to the Philippines. In a sense, this celebration is not just for my birthday. It's for the success that all of these people continue to achieve."

LAWYER Ray Espinosa

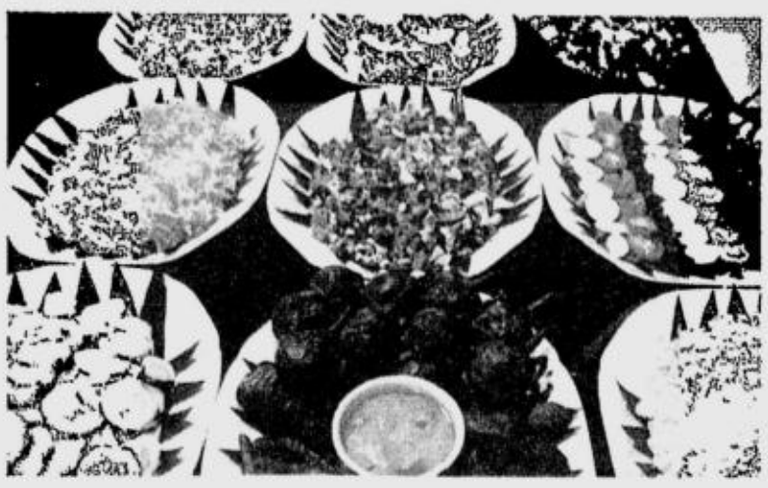
FREDDIE Burgos

KRIS Aquino goes one-on-one with the celebrant.

Resto raffles off Hong Kong trip for 2 for its 15th anniversary

CABALEN marks its 15th anniversary in excellent dining with new promos and prizes for diners. Following the success of its "Eat-All-You-Can, Win All You Want!" promo last year, the premiere buffet restaurant presents "Eat & Drink All You Can, Win All You Can!" this year, a raffle promo tie-up with Nestlé Philippines, featuring their Nestea product and their newly launched Nestlé Lemonade.

Cabalen is giving away as grand prize an all-expense paid trip for two to Hong Kong. The package includes a three-day, two-night stay in a hotel, daily breakfast for two, round trip tickets for two plus pocket money of P25,000. Second prize is a 29-inch brand new Sony Wega Flat TV. There will be five third-prize winners of Nokia 3310 cellphone units. Consolation prizes are 15 Cabalen gift certificates worth P1,000 and 15 Cabalen gift packs worth P500.



To join, simply dine in at any Cabalen Restaurant from Aug. 10-Sept. 10 and avail of one buffet and one bottomless Nestea/Lemonade, and you'll automatically get a raffle coupon for the grand raffle draw on Sept. 13. The more coupons you have, the more your chances of winning.

For their anniversary buffets, Cabalen features six house specials, namely: crispy pork head, chicken pastel, *igado*, beef *papaitan*, and two kinds of *ensalada*—*ensalada lato* and vegetable salad.

Cabalen has 10 branches in Metro Manila: West Avenue, QC; SM Megamall; Glorietta 3, Ayala Center; Robinsons Place Manila; Katipunan Blueridge, QC; SM North Edsa; SM City Manila; Sta. Lucia East Grand Malls; Robinsons Starmills Pampanga; and soon-to-open in Harrizon Plaza.

Cabalen also caters for all occasions and has function rooms for private affairs and corporate gatherings. Special packages are available to suit every budget. For details, visit the Cabalen website at www.cabalenrestaurant.com. For franchising opportunities, call 913-5528 or 911-1584; look for Donna Ignacio. For catering services, call 647-5088 and 647-4988.

Hotel-observatory ready for August meteor shower

SEVEN Suites Hotel-Observatory in Antipolo City has prepared for what astronomers predict will be one of the best meteor showers this year—the Perseids shower. This spectacular star show will occur on the night of Aug. 12.

The hotel provides a unique experience of stargazing, as it is equipped with a powerful telescope on its roof deck.

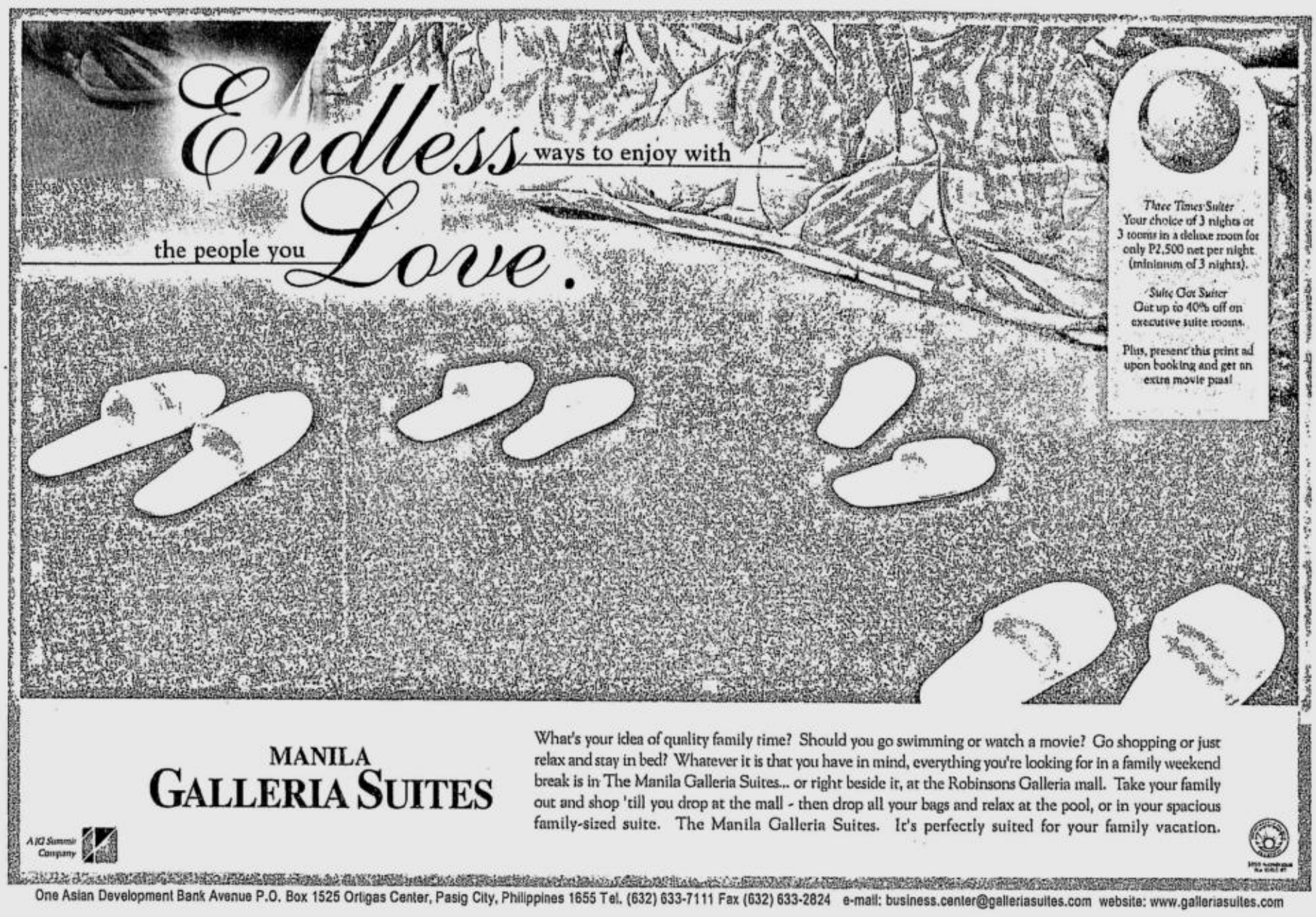
A spectacular night show is anticipated since the enormous shower of stars will appear bright and awesome against the dark, moonless sky.

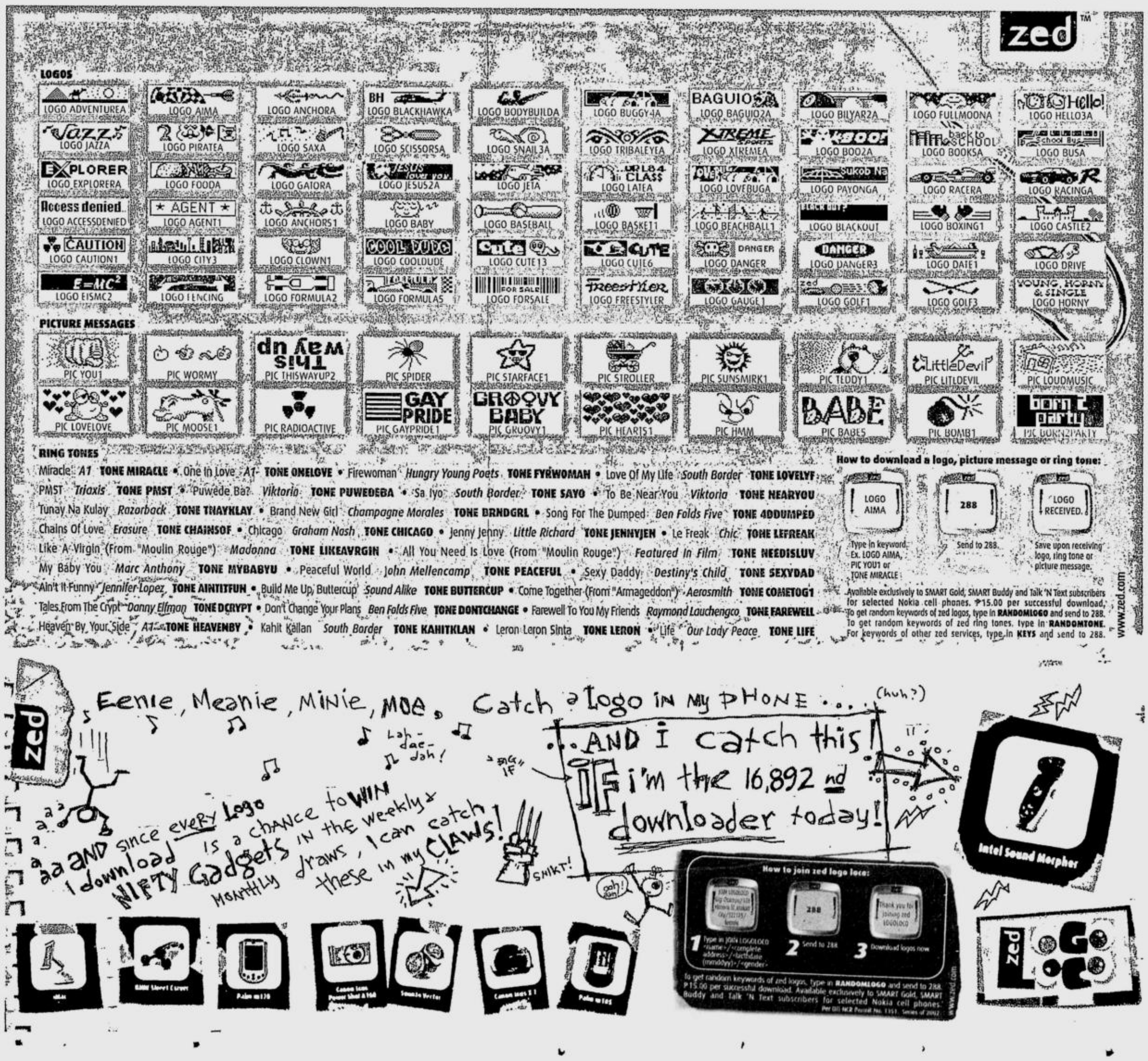
Rosales added that the Perseids shower promises to be one of the best this year. Two more incredible meteor showers are anticipated in November and December. Fair weather will further enhance this rare phenomenon as a sight to see for children and adults alike.

The hotel astronomer will also assist guests during their stargazing. Children can also read storybooks and enjoy a complimentary activity kit in a cozy, air-conditioned cove of the roof deck.

Located on top of a hill, Seven Suites affords a breathtaking view of city lights and the night sky. Facilities also include an elevated swimming pool, a roof deck jacuzzi, billiard room and telescope. Guests can also ease their weary muscles with an hour and a half session of soothing aromatherapy massage.

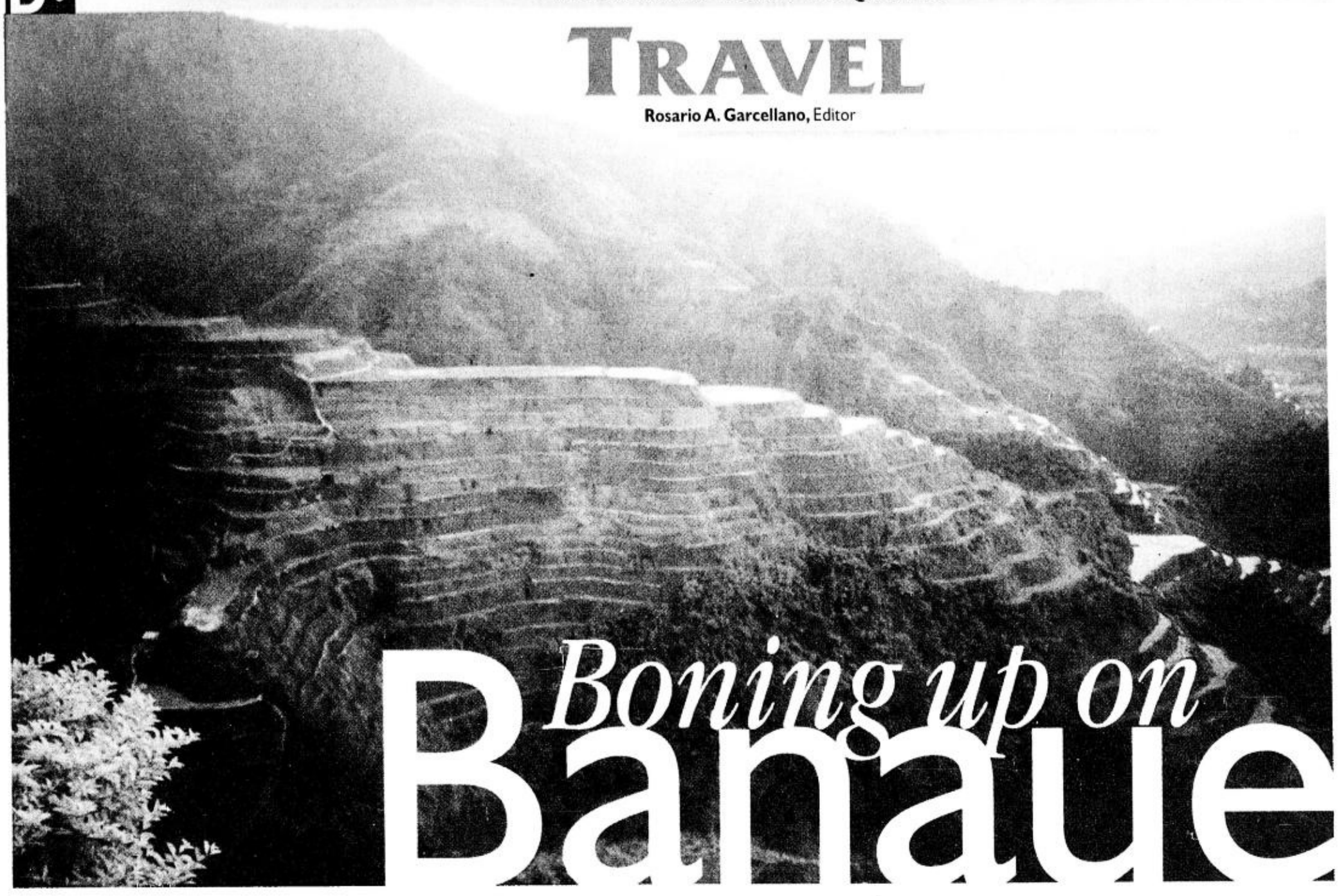
Seven Suites is located along Sumulong Highway in Antipolo City, in front of Valley Golf Country Club. Call 240-5093, 677-5402 or (0919) 436-5057.





TRAVEL

Rosario A. Garcellano, Editor



Boning up on Banaue

Spanning 20,000 hectares, the Ifugao Rice Terraces are a living testament of engineering and creative genius

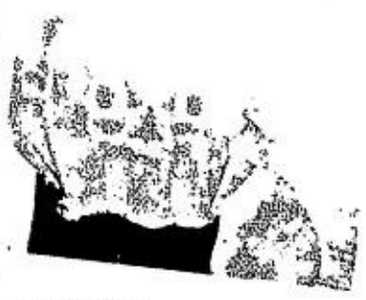
Text and photos by Zardo A. Austria

IN THE COURSE of getting to know Banaue, I was able to correct some common misconceptions about the world-famous Ifugao Rice Terraces.

One, Banaue is not a part of Mountain Province but one of the 11 municipalities of Ifugao, which used to be a part of the old Mountain Province and became an independent province in 1966. (And while many among us have mistakenly associated Banaue with Baguio City, the country's summer capital that was once also a part of the old Mountain Province, the two are very much apart, particularly in terms of distance. Driving from Baguio to Banaue will take you roughly eight hours—almost the same length of time it will take you to drive up to Banaue from Manila.)

Two, Banaue does not hold "exclusive rights" to the Ifugao Rice Terraces. Other terraces, some more pristine and greener than those found in Banaue, are also found in eight other municipalities of Ifugao—Aguinaldo, Asipulo, Hiingyon, Hungduan, Kiangan, Lagawe (the capital), Mayoyao, and Tinoc.

Three, there are only seven man-made wonders of antiquity in the world, as recognized by the ancient Greeks. These are the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Great Pyramid of Khufu, the Colossus of Rhodes, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus, the Pharos (or lighthouse) of Alexandria, and the Mausoleum in Halicarnassus. But because of their awesome beauty that spans 20,000 hectares of mountainsides painstakingly carved by the native Ifugao using the barest of implements more than 2,000 years ago—truly a living testament of engineering and creative genius—the Ifugao Rice Terraces have earned the unofficial but quite appropriate tag, the "Eighth Wonder of the World."



AT Gulhob's crystal-clear waters; with the mountain folk (bottom)

In December 1995, Unesco formally honored the Ifugao Rice Terraces as the first living cultural landscape and declared it a World Heritage Site.

"The rice terraces are a source of pride not only for us here in Ifugao but for all Filipinos as well," says Susan Paredes, owner of the Sanafe Lodge & Restaurant located right in the center of Banaue.

While most of the wonders of the world are products of forced labor and slavery (and, therefore, of oppression and injustice), the rice terraces were built primarily to benefit every one in the Ifugao tribal society, from one generation to the next. "From the ancient times to the present, the terraces have been a continuing source of sustenance and inspiration to the Ifugaos," Susan notes.

The daughter of Zosimo Joven Paredes, a retired general who served as governor of Ifugao from 1975 to 1986, Susan actually grew up in Canlubang, Laguna, at Camp Vicente Lim, where her father was for a long time the 2nd PC Zone commander. Her "love affair" with Banaue started in 1978 when her father presented her a seven-bedroom lodging house as a gift.

"People were asking my father to build a more affordable lodging house for local and foreign tourists," says Susan. "At that time tourism in Banaue was booming but some tourists found the famous Banaue Hotel a bit expensive. So he built Sanafe and asked me to manage it."

A hotel and restaurant management graduate, Susan left a flourishing career at the then Manila Hilton to jumpstart Sanafe's operations. Since the 1970s the lodge has weathered the highs and lows of tourist arrivals and has been expanded to comfortably accommodate 30-40 guests. There is now, as well, a spacious indoor-outdoor restaurant that offers a panoramic view of the rice terraces.

According to Susan, the peak of tourism in Banaue was from the '80s to the early '90s. "It was popular, especially among the French, Germans, Swiss and Asians like the Taiwanese, Malaysians and Singaporeans," she recalls. "But it continues to be popular among the more adventurous, nature-seeking type."

Exploring Banaue requires patience, time and stamina. "But it's all worth your sweat," Susan swears.

Within the town proper, one can visit the Tam-An Village (located 240 steps down from the Banaue Hotel), the Banaue Trade Center, and the Banaue Viewpoint for unique woodcarvings and hand-woven products.

The viewpoint is also the best spot for taking pictures of the rice terraces.

The sitio of Matanglag, on the other hand, is widely known for its extraordinary metal ware. Here, time seems to stop as the native craftsmen use hand tools, fire bellows and molds made from a honeybee nest to melt old silver coins, copper wires, water taps and even shells left from World War II. Through this crude method, they produce an interesting variety of bronze, silver and copper charms, earrings, necklaces, pendants, rings and bangles.

For a glimpse of Ifugao history and culture, one can take a short walk to the Banaue Museum or the Ifugao Cultural Moviehouse.

Better yet, Susan suggests a visit to Ifugao barangays (there are 18 in the Banaue municipality). "For instance," she says, "you can take a four-kilometer drive to Barangay Hiwang, where you can view the mummified bodies of an Ifugao couple inside a native hut."

The other places that she recommends are the Bocos Village, known for its cluster of houses adorned with skulls of animals like water buffaloes; the Poitan Village, which boasts a magnificent line of Ifugao huts along mountain slopes surrounded with stone walls, and where one can also see the legendary "stone post" protected by the local folk; and the rarely explored but truly beautiful Cambulo Village (a four-hour hike from Kinakin, which is located eight kilometers away from the town center) standing right beside the lush Cambulo rice terraces.

With the many rice terraces to choose from in Banaue and its neighboring towns, Susan lists the ones that she thinks should not miss. The are found in Bangaan, during summer ons, you will see bows against the setting sun; Batad, where the unusual amphitheater-shaped terraces will strike you as one huge coliseum; Hapao; and Hungduan on Mt. Napulawan, one of the mountains in Ifugao where the late Gen. Tomojuki Yamashita, known among war veterans as the "Tiger of Malaya," made his last stand against Filipino and American forces.

After a hike to any of these terraces, a refreshing dip in the Tappiya Waterfalls or the crystal-clear waters of Gulhob is a most soothing experience.

Susan observes a renewed interest in Banaue, particularly among local tourists. She thinks it was sparked by Unesco's statement of concern over the deteriorating condition of some of the rice terraces.

IN front of Ifugao hut guarded by native with warrior gear

"Suddenly, quite a number of our *kababayan* have been coming with their families for a visit," she says. "There's this apprehension that the future generations might not be fortunate to marvel at the sight of the eighth wonder of the world."

The positive note is that Unesco's concern has led to the formation of the Ifugao Rice Terraces Commission, whose main task is to oversee the maintenance of the natural wonder with an allocation of P1.3 billion from the Office of the President.

"The cost may seem staggering," admits Susan. "But what's in store here is not just a source of our national pride but a world treasure that may be lost forever."

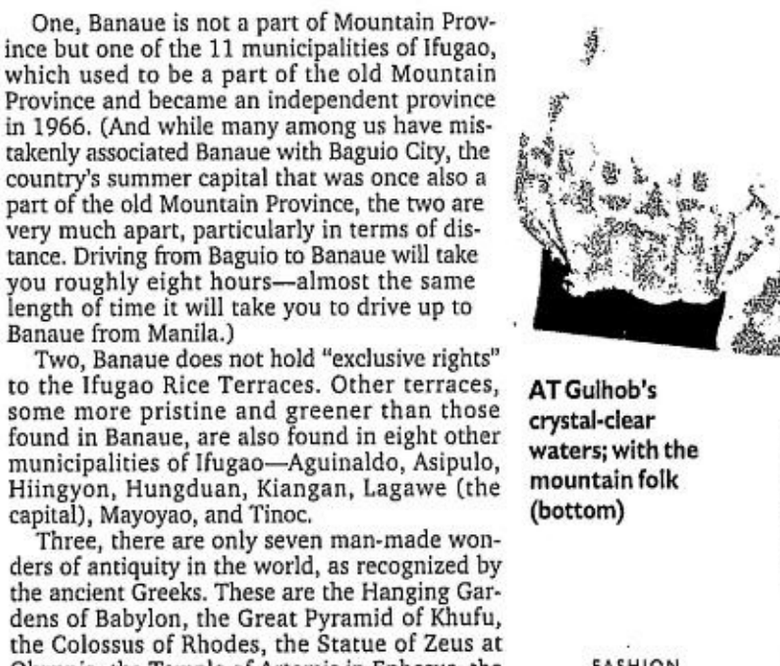
If you're taking public transport, an air-conditioned bus leaves daily for Banaue at 10 p.m. sharp from the Auto Bus terminal at the corner of Dimasalang and Laong Laan streets in Manila. You reach your destination at 6 a.m. the next day.

One-way fare is P257. Early reservations are recommended. For inquiries, call 743-2227.

For reservations at Sanafe Lodge & Restaurant, call (074) 386-4085 in Banaue and 722-2110 in Manila.

Travelers are advised to bring sufficient cash. There are no ATMs in Banaue, and almost all shops, lodging houses and eateries have no credit card facilities.

FASHION BY STEVE DE LEON, BARGE RAMOS, EDGAR SAN DIEGO AND JEANNE GOULBOURN; MODELING BY EDGAR SELVA; GROOMING BY DEO B.C. SALON



BESIDE hand-carved anito

TRAVEL BRIEFS

'Rainy Days' package

YOU have until Aug. 31 to treat yourself to a "Rainy Days" package at the Legenda Hotel and Grand Seasons Hotel in Subic.

You can enjoy a superior room for P3,282+ from Friday to Saturday and as low as P2,650+ from Sunday to Thursday. The special rate covers a breakfast for two and a P500 rebate on your second night's stay.

Members of the Legendary Gold Club will get an additional 5-percent discount. For bookings and inquiries, call 732-9888 in Manila or 252-1888 in Subic.

Indonesia's reefs

GAIN lessons on how Indonesia preserved its coral reefs in "About Asia: Indonesia, Beyond the Reefs" on National Geographic Channel on Aug. 15 at 10 p.m.

The coral reefs of Indonesia stand among the world's largest and boast an extraordinary diversity of marine life. But for years, these reefs have been under constant attack from blast fishing and other destructive practices. In certain places, once vibrant habitats have been turned into gray, lifeless tracts.

Even the traditional ways of fishing have exhausted the bounty of the reefs. Increased industrial development has also introduced wastes and runoffs, and as a result, the future of this vital marine environment hangs in the balance.

Join the young explorers of the Marine Parks of Indonesia Expedition in examining the state of the reefs.

SMS for freight, passage

WG&A Philippines will soon use the SMS (short message system) or text messaging to check each client's cargo handling needs and to handle inquiries about SuperFerry schedules, rates and outlets anywhere in the country.

The Zip Track 'n' Trace via Infotext service, to be implemented in partnership with Globe Telecoms, is expected to provide better options for customers who previously acquired information by dialing the company's hotline numbers or visiting its ticketing offices.

Corporate communications manager Gina Virtusio said the new service would make inquiries from clients more interactive—and fun. It will also allow clients to inquire about the status or location of their shipment at their own convenience.

The Zip Track 'n' Trace Infotext service is the first in the local shipping industry.

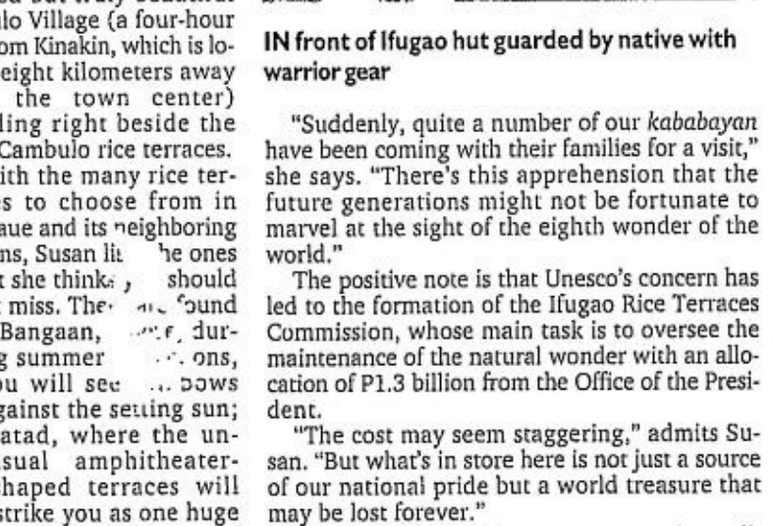
More fun for kids

BRITISH Airways is putting up even more entertainment for children on board.

Along with the current dedicated on-board children's channel, "Nickelodeon," the newly introduced "Family Channel" will keep kids amused with films such as "Ice Age" and "Monsters Inc.," while a new pure-pop audio channel will allow them to keep up with the latest chart music.

High Life magazine will likewise feature dedicated articles about traveling with children such as "Kids' Guide to the World," which offers advice on where to take children; a "London Column" on things to do in England's capital; and "Global View," a special article on children flying the world.

These offerings, among others, are on top of the airline's usual products and services for the family. These include the usual family seat pre-reservation and early boarding, Britax infant seats and baby cots, a "feed kids first" policy, and especially designed children's meals, as well as Disney activity packs.

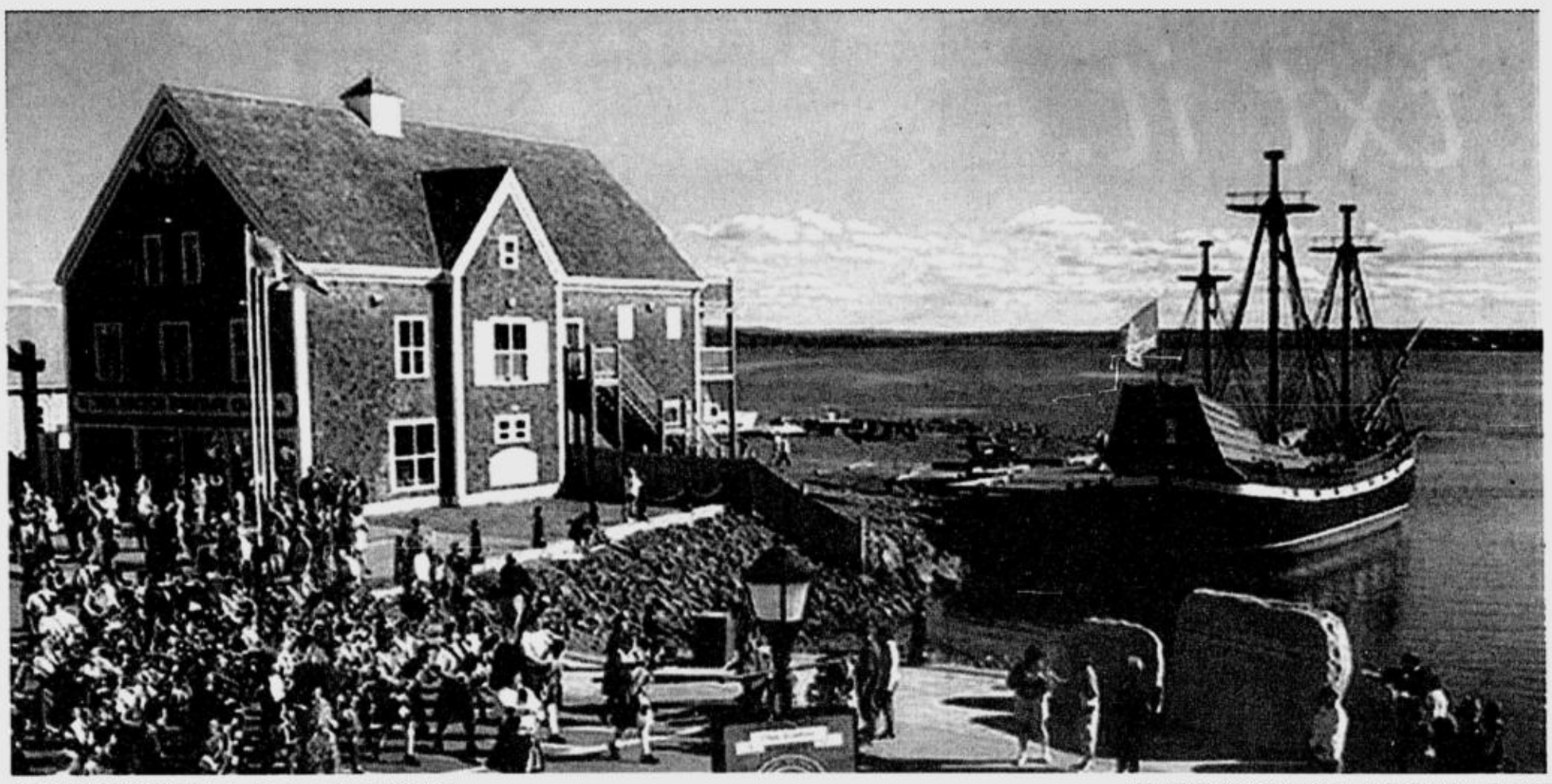


MURDER MOST FOUL

That's one of two dead giant clams that used to live in the waters of Puerto Galera. A dive site offers divers the rare delight of seeing more than 50 such clams in residence, many of them measuring 26 inches in diameter, or about the size of a year-old child. Despite a private foundation's efforts to keep a 24-hour watch over the clam garden, two Korean divers managed to kill two of the clams last month. They removed the creatures' adductors, which command a high price in Korean restaurants. Citing Section 97 of the 1998 Philippine Fisheries Code, the municipal government has filed charges against the divers in the hope of stopping uncaring persons from destroying Philippine marine life.

Linger on Nova Scotia's Sunrise Trail

By Richard Pennick



POSTCARD-PRETTY Hector Heritage Quay in Pictou

COURTESY OF NOVA SCOTIA TOURISM AND CULTURE

THE DELIGHTFUL communities of Pictou, Pugwash and Tatamagouche on Nova Scotia's Sunrise Trail are as interesting as their early settler and Micmac native names convey.

The picturesque coastline straddles Pictou and Colchester counties of this Atlantic Canadian province, providing many hours of interesting exploration and relaxing beach time.

Tatamagouche Bay on Nova Scotia's north shore overlooks the Northumberland Strait, and on a clear day Prince Edward Island may be seen in the distance.

The whole region is barely an hour and a half from Halifax International Airport and, although off the beaten track, is well worth taking the time to visit.

The maritime charm of these communities is centered round their harbors, where colorful lobster boats line the quays. Lobstermen will sell you fresh catch right off the boat for about C$7 a pound and $1 more if cooked.

Artists and writers are drawn to these towns because of their charm, evocative seafaring lore, old Victorian homes and timber churches built strong by shipwrights in the New England style of the late 1800s.

The fertile land attracted Dutch and German farmers, mingling their cultures with the Acadian, Scottish and New England Yankee influences already there.

The undulating countryside, dotted with small villages, forested backcountry and coastline, is steeped in the history of colonial settlement. There are old farmhouses and wind-bent barns, general stores, community newspapers and courthouses, antique shops and eclectic accommodation, humor and local accents.

"Not bad! You?" is a bewildering greeting from locals when approached with a question. Subsequent conversations will enlighten and amuse.

The Sunrise Trail runs the length of Nova Scotia's north shore.

Pictou, the county seat, was landfall for 189 Scottish settlers on board the "Dutch flute" Hector in 1773, and is heralded as the "birthplace of New Scotland" in Canada.

A replica of the old ship sits at The Hector Heritage Quay interpretative center and museum, which is central to the annual Hector landing reenactment in mid-August and the New Scotland Days festival in mid-September.

The distances along rural country roads between these towns is measured in minutes, and west along the coast is Tatamagouche, a village of old Victorian homes and stores built in the late 1800s. It also has an Acadian and native heritage museum as well as an art gallery.

Set in a scenic and idyllic location, the Balmoral Grist Mill and museum built in the 1870s, operates in much the same way as it always has. The millers still use the original granite grinding wheels brought over from Scotland, and small quantities of flour and oatmeal are still produced on site. Their freshly baked oatmeal cookies are like you've never tasted before—perfect with that cuppa.

Recent German immigrants have opened smoke houses and meat shops, two of which are located in the small village of "Denmark." They season pork and sausages for sale and are purveyors to a very popular Oktoberfest organized by the locals and held annually in Tatamagouche village.

The quiet community of Pugwash was the home of Cyrus Eaton, a native son, who hosted the first modern "think tank" that brought together Albert Einstein, Bertrand Russell and Dr. Joseph Rotblat for the "Thinkers" conference in 1957.

These great minds met to confer on nuclear disarmament, and Pugwash is still the only location to win the prestigious Nobel Prize.

Every July 1 Pugwash celebrates the annual Gathering of the Clans Scottish Festival with highland games competitions, crafts, pipe music and highland dancing, lobster and clam chowder dinners.

The many uncrowded beaches along the Sunrise Trail enjoy waters warmed by incoming tides over sun-baked sand—perfect for swimming. There is nothing more memorable than a few quiet days at an old beach cottage, with lobster dinners, wine from the local Jost vineyard and the lingering sunsets of Tatamagouche Bay.

Holiday accommodation varies from beach cottages or farm stays to bed-and-breakfasts in old Victorian houses.

By far the most original repose is the century-old Tatamagouche Train Station Inn, which offers a bed-and-breakfast experience in spacious train cabooses dating from 1911 to 1978. Each features queen-size beds, fireplaces, air-conditioning, railway memorabilia and private baths. (Contact stationmaster@trainstation.ns.ca. Or call 902-657-3222 or fax to 902-657-9091.)

Atlantic Tours Gray Line of Halifax offers escorted and self-drive tours of Atlantic Canada and Nova Scotia. Call 1-800-565-7173 or visit reservations@atlantictours.com.

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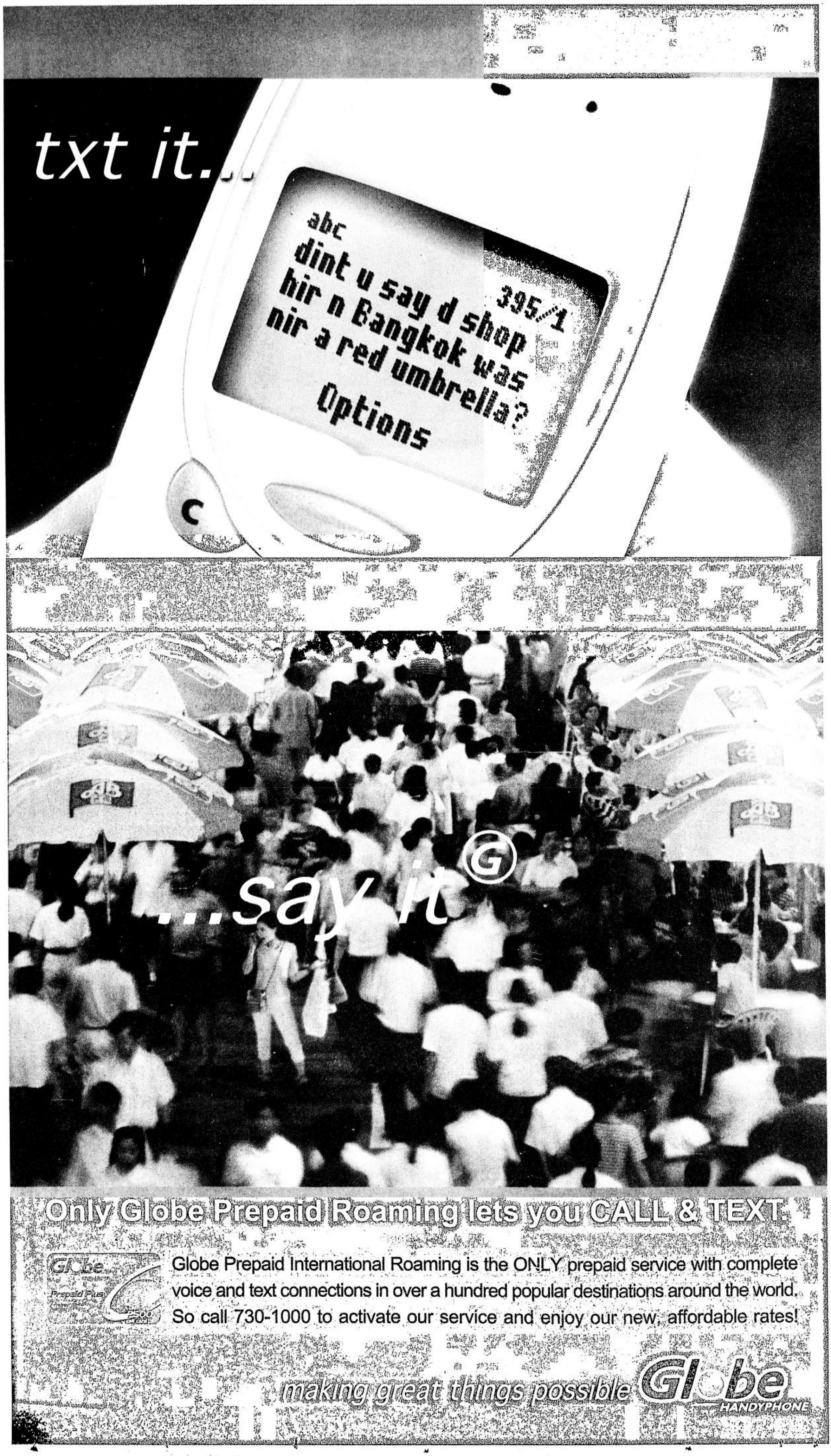

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

NOKIA 7650

New cell phone makes others look Jurassic

Story on page E3

His&Hers Loans Advice

On Owning Your Dream Home

Living With Parents

Hector and Cristina: *"Hello. My wife and I have been living with Mom and Dad for almost five years now. Nakakahiya 'no? That's why we're really considering looking for a place of our own na. Pero, with the prices of houses these days, pa'no? Maybe you can offer us an advice. Thanks. In advance."*

"You don't have to worry about increasing monthly payments"

Why Rent?

Andrew & Jenny: *"Hello! We're a pair who has been renting an apartment for three years now. P10,000 a month. And our monthly bill rises with each passing year. The thing is, we're paying for a place that will never be ours. Sayang na sayang. But do we have a choice? We would truly be grateful for any advice."*

"The house you've been dreaming of is now even more affordable."

Paolo: "Your timing couldn't have been better! You see, BPI Family Bank, through Happy Family Housing Loan, is now offering their lowest monthly amortization ever! This means, the house you've been dreaming of is now even more affordable - through really low monthly amortizations!"

Iya: "Hurry and take advantage of Happy Family Housing Loan's lowest monthly amortization. Get in touch with BPI Family Bank right away through 89-100. And, before you know it, you'll be on your way to living in your very own home. I'm sure Mom and Dad will approve."

Paolo: "Actually, you do have a choice. Because Happy Family Housing Loan offers you the added protection of fixed payment options. From two, three or even up to five years. And because they're fixed, you don't have to worry about increasing monthly payments, while enjoying BPI Family Bank's lowest monthly amortizations. For example, you get to pay as low as ₱1,075 a month fixed for 3 years for every loan amount of ₱100,000 with a fifteen year term!"

Iya: "That's true. Just put your mind into it and, chances are, you'll find an ideal home with a monthly amortization that's just a little over your monthly rent. In fact, BPI Family Bank can help in finding the right home for you. Through their developer partners, like Jardine Land and Pro-Friends. What's more, credit decision takes only five days. So avail yourself of a Happy Family Housing Loan now and you'll be waving goodbye to apartment rental real soon.

Paolo & Iya: "Our advice, get a Happy Family Housing Loan today! The fast, easy and affordable way to own your dream home."

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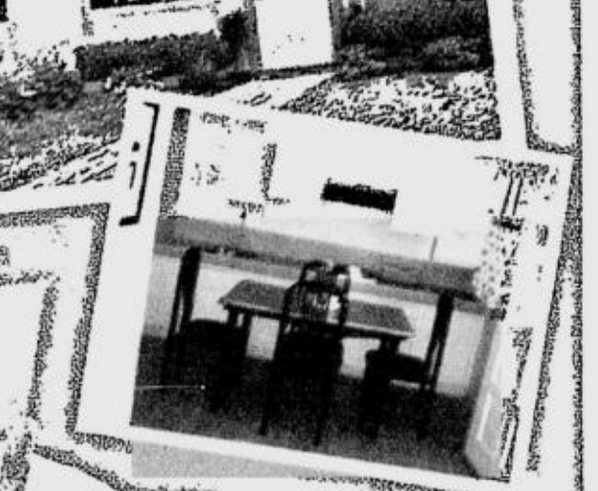
•Free P100.00 initial airtime value •40 free text messages per month • Wide network coverage • Calling, Texting, Voice Messaging and Voice Info



Cebuanos 'invade' Ormoc for birthday bash

CARMEN Mejia de Rodriguez celebrated her 70th birthday at the Sabin's Beach Resort in Ormoc City, Leyte. She gathered all her children and grandchildren who checked into Sabin's days ahead of the party, the better to enjoy each other's company, swim to their hearts' content, and rehearse the song and dance numbers for the program that highlighted the dinner.

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

"Our voices are those only a mother would love, but we were greatly applauded," said the two eldest children, identical twins Marissa and Marilou. Marissa baked a birthday cake in Cebu. Her husband Paquito Unchuan, their two pretty daughters Melissa and Marian, and son Jonathan helped her bring the cake to Ormoc.

Marilou also came from Cebu with her husband architect Jose Mari Canizares and their four sons Joefranz, Joevince, Diego and Kenzo. The first three are popular hunk models, and their dad collects every glossy magazine that features them.

"All of us girls are based in Cebu, while all the boys are in Leyte," Marilou said, but added, "Well, Rita is in Toronto." Rita flew in from Canada, leaving husband Mar Quintia behind as they were about to move to another house. She brought her brood of three—Marty, Francine and John Edward.

Casilda, "Didang to family and friends, left her duties in the family's chain of bakeries, and sailed to Ormoc with husband Jaime de Larrazabal and their two boys, Enrique and Eduardo.

Mario and Jenet Rodriguez were with their four kids—Maika, Yana, Ivy and Ting—as well as two others who make the family complete: Rebecca, their carpenter's daughter, and little baby Bienvenido, who is a welcome addition indeed. They took him from the Perfetta Letizia Children's Home in Borongan, Samar, which was the beneficiary of offerings in lieu of gifts as specified by Doña Carmen Rodriguez in her invitations.

MOTHER and children—Joselito Rodriguez, Paolo Rodriguez, Dr. Mario Rodriguez, Marilou Cañizarez, Carmen Mejia de Rodriguez, Rita Quintia, Marissa Unchuan, Didang de Larrazabal, Dr. Vicente Rodriguez Jr. and Peter Rodriguez

JED Sevilla with Lana Asanin after the show

Completing the extended family were Dr. Vicente and Judy Rodriguez, with their children Carlyn, Vincent and Alissa; Lito and Emily Rodriguez, with their Marvin, Kate, Lyle, Rica and Joshua; Peter and Rina Rodriguez, with their Andrei and Kyra; and Paolo and Chona Rodriguez (he was being congratulated on his recent appointment as assistant vice president of Nestlé in the Visayas).

A touching part of the program was when everyone was asked to remember his/her childhood. Everyone remembered their father, Don Vicente Rodriguez, who died more than 20 years ago, leaving behind a widow whose youngest child was only 7. They talked about dear Carmen, who was diagnosed with cancer last year. The children thanked their mother for instilling in them a sense of discipline and a set of values that helped them succeed in life.

* * *

THERE have been several bridal fashion parades in Cebu, and among the best attended was the one at Casino Filipino in the Waterfront Hotel-Mactan. Featured was talented designer Jed Sevilla. His colleague Wendell Quisido did the front act. Jed was beside himself with the success of the show. He had designed a collection using ethnic textiles and vibrant colors. The men's wear, featuring *barongs* colored with natural dyes, got as much applause as the ladies'.

Celebrity Lana Asanin appeared as the bride in the finale, with Christian Solon as the bridegroom. Literally stealing the show were the Cebuana models, particularly Monina Blanco, who was dripping with diamonds and pearls from the collection of her lovely mom, Inday Esperanza Briones Blanco. Dear dad, Dr. Guimo Blanco, personally went to the bank vault to choose the best.

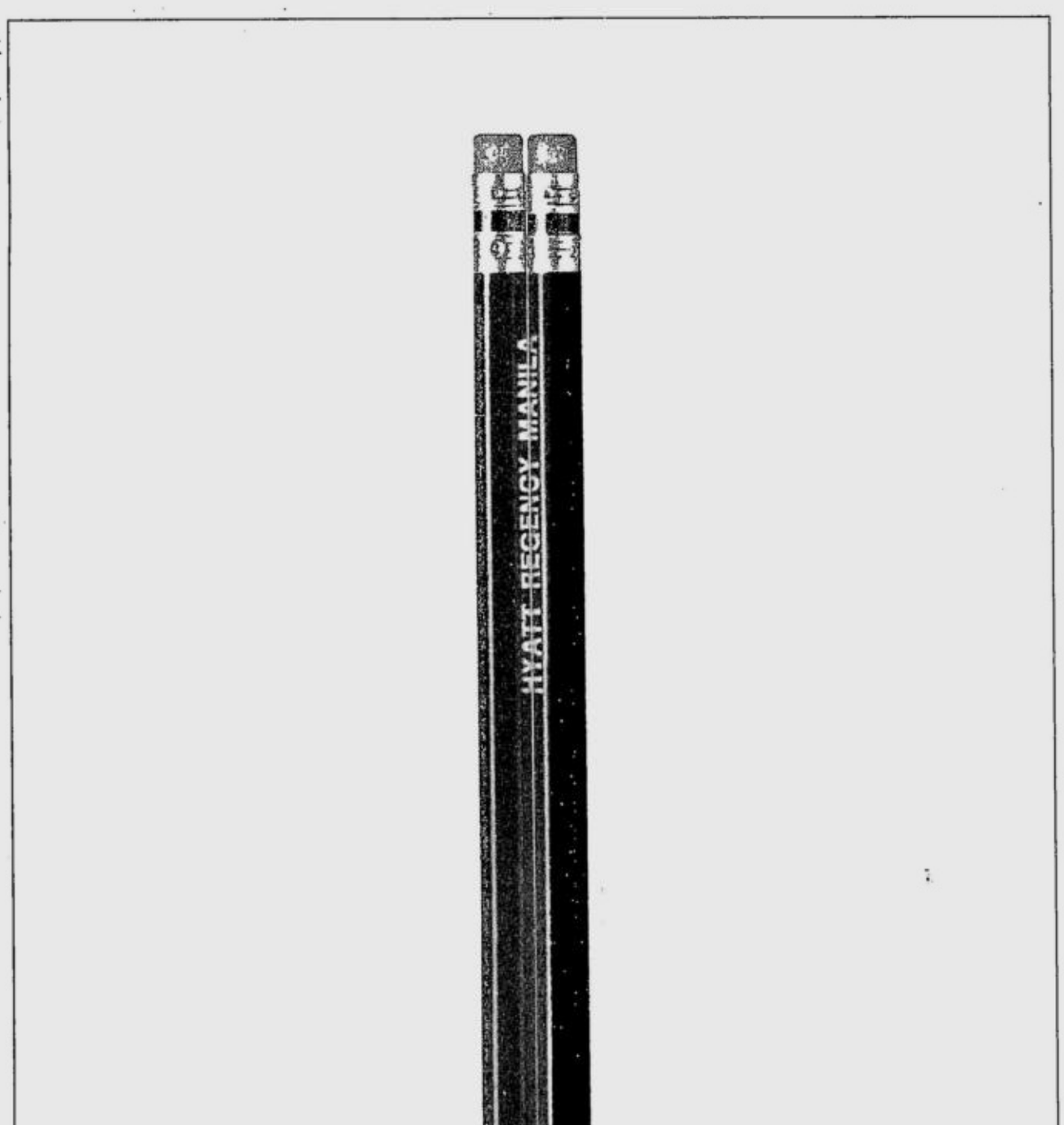
Giving added fillip to the show were Karl Hyden (on vacation from studies in Stockholm) and his school chums who gamely joined the show: Daniel Brickho, who comes from the Middle East; and Lithuanians Lina Balbuckhaite and Johann Abrahamson. Karl's mom, Malou Hyden, was in the audience.

* * *

CATHAY Pacific held a Hail-and-Farewell party at the ballroom of the Marriott Hotel to welcome the new Cebu manager, Lawrence Fong, and his pretty wife Sabina, and to say "Godspeed" to Mark Lui after an all-too-short stay of two years here with his wife Fiona and their two children.

Adrian Harley, the CX country manager for the Philippines, flew from Manila for the occasion. British Consul Moya Jackson told him he's so tall she got a pain in the neck talking to him. He countered that the same thing happened to him when talking to most other people.

There were golf balls all over the place, even a putting range, since Mark loves golf so much, and Cebu has many clubs. Guests were asked to come in golf togs, which many did. Connie Cimefranca, in charge of sales and marketing at the Cebu CX office, prepared a most enjoyable program—video testimonials for Mark, the presentation of a charcoal sketch and expressions of good wishes. For Lawrence, there was a beautifully-tailored *barong*, which he immediately slipped on.



The Hyatt Twosome Special

Happy Days Plus Package - Deluxe Room at **P2,500 net,** available daily
• free round of drinks for two at Calesa Music Bar and Lounge
• discounts on massage and salon services • casino passes
• one complimentary buffet for every group of four at Cafe Al Fresco
• an Ayala Center "Be Our Guest" discount card • a surprise gift and a P500 discount coupon for your next stay or for an additional room • late checkout until 4pm

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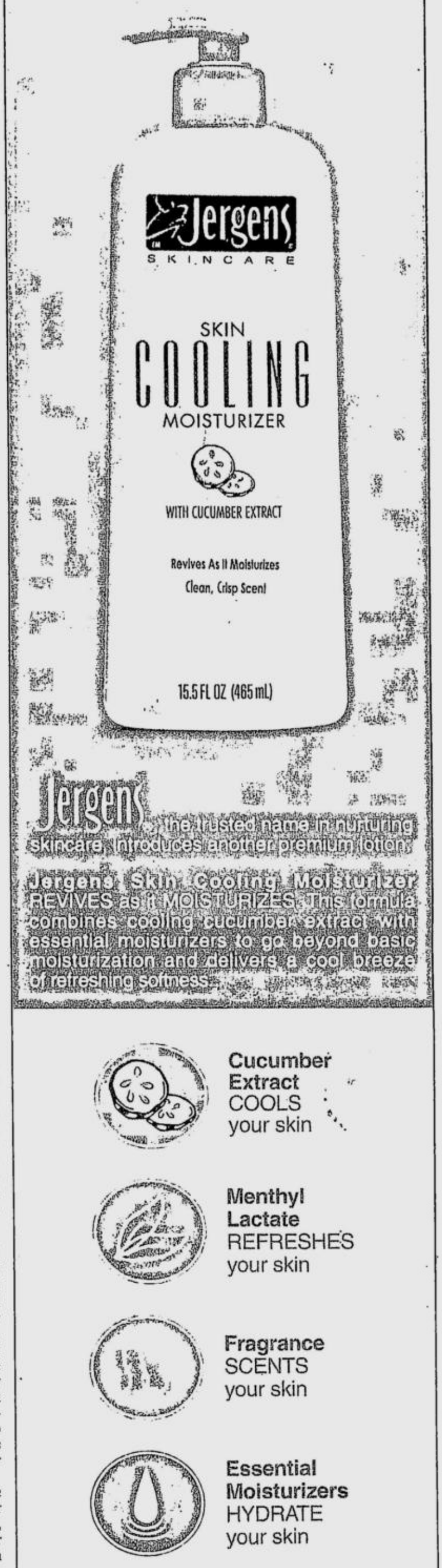
COOL BREEZE in a Bottle



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Jergens Skin Cooling Moisturizer absorbs quickly and completely without a hint of greasiness to replenish and revive dry, tired skin.

The cool softness and clean, crisp scent will be as welcome as a cool breeze on a warm day.

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Jergens. Love your body.

New cell phone makes others look Jurassic

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS
Anton San Diego

MUST-HAVE phone: Nokia 7650. I remember the first cell phone I got (Nokia 3210) and how I was so excited with the SMS and the games. But now when you compare the 3210 with the advanced technology of Nokia's amazing 7650, the former seems like a dinosaur.

The 7650 is the latest must-have and is the best-looking one, especially when you are with friends at dinner and you all put your phones on the table. I am sure somebody will want to hide his or her phone. The features of the new Nokia include the all-important (to some) camera. You can download into your computer the photos you take with this camera, send them to someone with a voice message or even a short note. The phone also has a voice recorder, colorful graphic display, and WAP (wireless application protocol) service. And it just really looks great. The downside is that, for you to be able to send picture messages, your friends have to have a 7650 also. But if you can convince all your friends and relatives to change their units then there won't be a problem.

Must-have beauty products—Joey New York. Stopping by Essences at Rustan's Makati, I was quite amazed with the loads of great stuff they have there from Acca Kappa, Nars, T. Le Clerc and Joey—all of which should be essential items of every fashionable woman's wardrobe. If you are not familiar with these names, then well, uhmm, you have to.

Joey New York is a big hit in the cosmetics world. All the products are designed to handle the most challenging skin care problems from wrinkles to blackheads and acne. Its products are great alternatives to painful, expensive and time-consuming dermatological procedures.

I found two products that are so amazing! Super Duper Lips is an all-natural alternative to collagen. It comes in a gel and is supposed be rubbed into your lips. In minutes, your lips look plumper, fuller and smoother. The other one, Line Up, is tagged as "botox in a bottle." The gel is guaranteed to remove lines and wrinkles right before your eyes. Drop by the Essences store in Rustan's Makati and check them out for yourself.

Haven't you had enough of... Rain? Potholes? Television channels with SMS messages interesting only for those who use SMS? The colds and flu caused by the rains? Pinoy crab mentality? It's time we change that trait and just be happy for everybody instead of trying to pull him or her down. New restaurants with no interior flair? Take the one that just opened in a new mall. While most places' look is modern and contemporary, this one seems like something from "Dynasty," very '80s right down to the rattan chair... Rude sales people, waiters and movie ticket attendants? Senators fighting? Although it's all quiet for now (they have supposedly made-up), you just know that unity will be hard to achieve when jealousy and one-

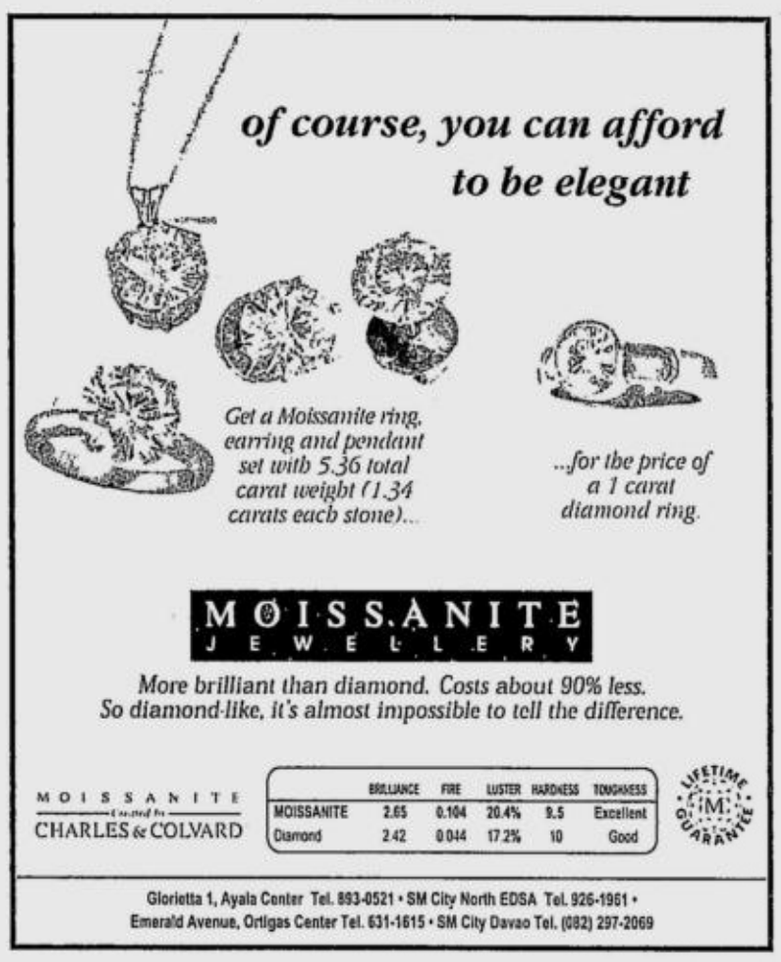
JOEY New York Super Duper Lips, and Line Up, the "botox in a bottle"

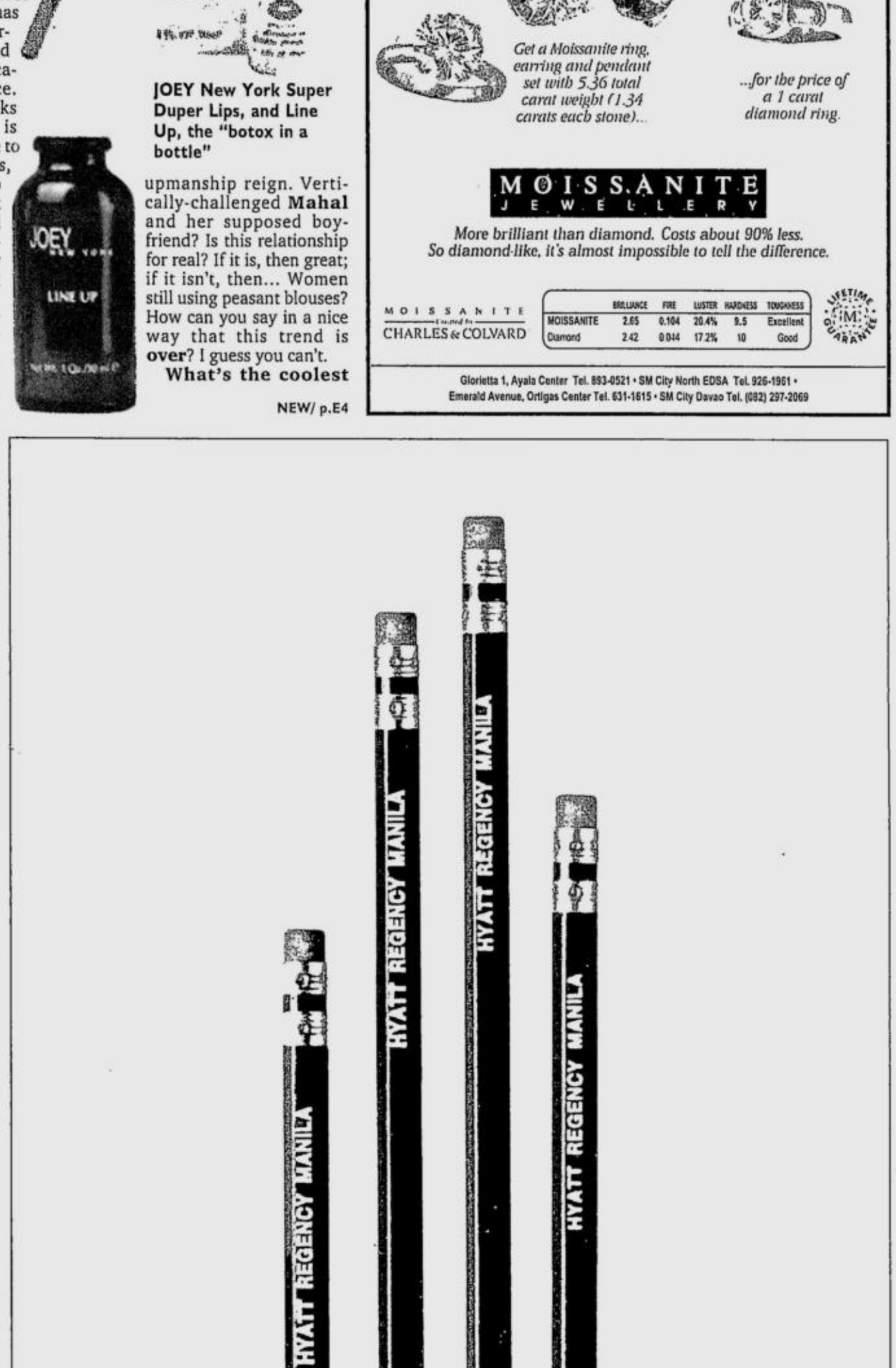
upmanship reign. Vertically-challenged **Mahal** and her supposed boyfriend? Is this relationship for real? If it is, then great; if it isn't, then... Women still using peasant blouses? How can you say in a nice way that this trend is **over**? I guess you can't.

What's the coolest

NEW/ p.E4

DIESEL'S Fall/Winter 2002 campaign





The Hyatt Family Package

Family Fun Package - Junior or Executive Suite at **P4,000 net**
• complimentary buffet breakfast for two adults and two kids at Cafe Al Fresco
• a "kiddie leisure lounge" with a giant screen for cartoon videos, loads of munchies and table games • a souvenir Hyatt pillow • loot bags for kids • free use of Swimming Pool and Fitness Suite • an Ayala Center "Be Our Guest" discount card • late checkout until 4pm

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SPA in a Bottle

SKIN FIRMING MOISTURIZER

WITH SEAWEED EXTRACT

Firms As It Moisturizes
Visibly Improves Skin Texture

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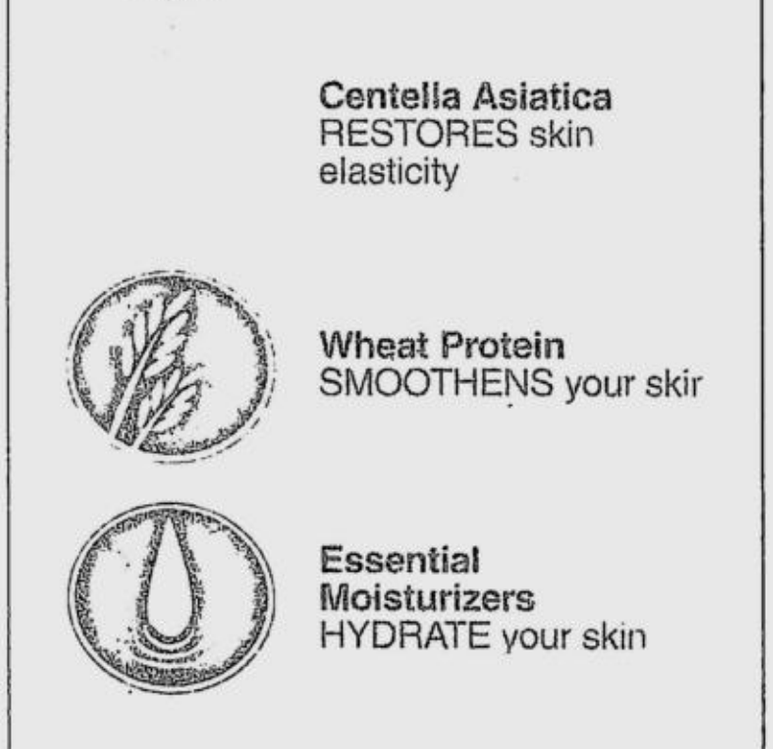
Jergens Skin Firming Moisturizer FIRMS as it MOISTURIZES. The improved combination of seaweed extract and centella asiatica, both natural botanical extracts frequently used in spas, and essential moisturizers to firm and tone skin.

Seaweed Extract
FIRMS your skin

Centella Asiatica
RESTORES skin elasticity

Wheat Protein
SMOOTHENS your skin

Essential Moisturizers
HYDRATE your skin



SALON in a Bottle

Jergens proudly introduces its groundbreaking innovation that goes beyond basic moisturizers.

Jergens Naturally Smooth Shave Minimizing Moisturizer helps you SHAVE LESS OFTEN with MOISTURIZER that's advanced formula combines herbal, botanical extract and Soy Protein which make skin smoother and less noticeable. When used as a daily moisturizer, you'll need to shave less often, and if you do, shaving becomes faster and easier.

Herbal*silk*™ Extract
REFINES hair on your skin

Soy Protein
SMOOTHENS your skin

Fragrance
SCENTS your skin

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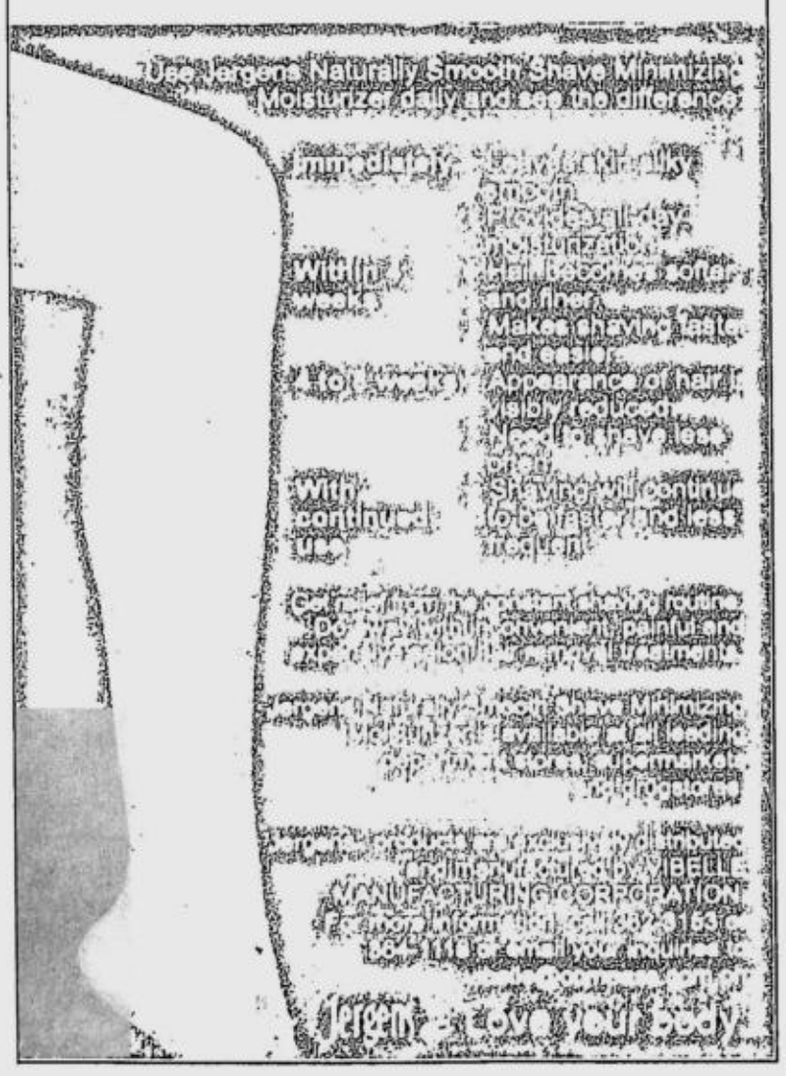
HYDRATE your skin



New cell phone makes others look Jurassic

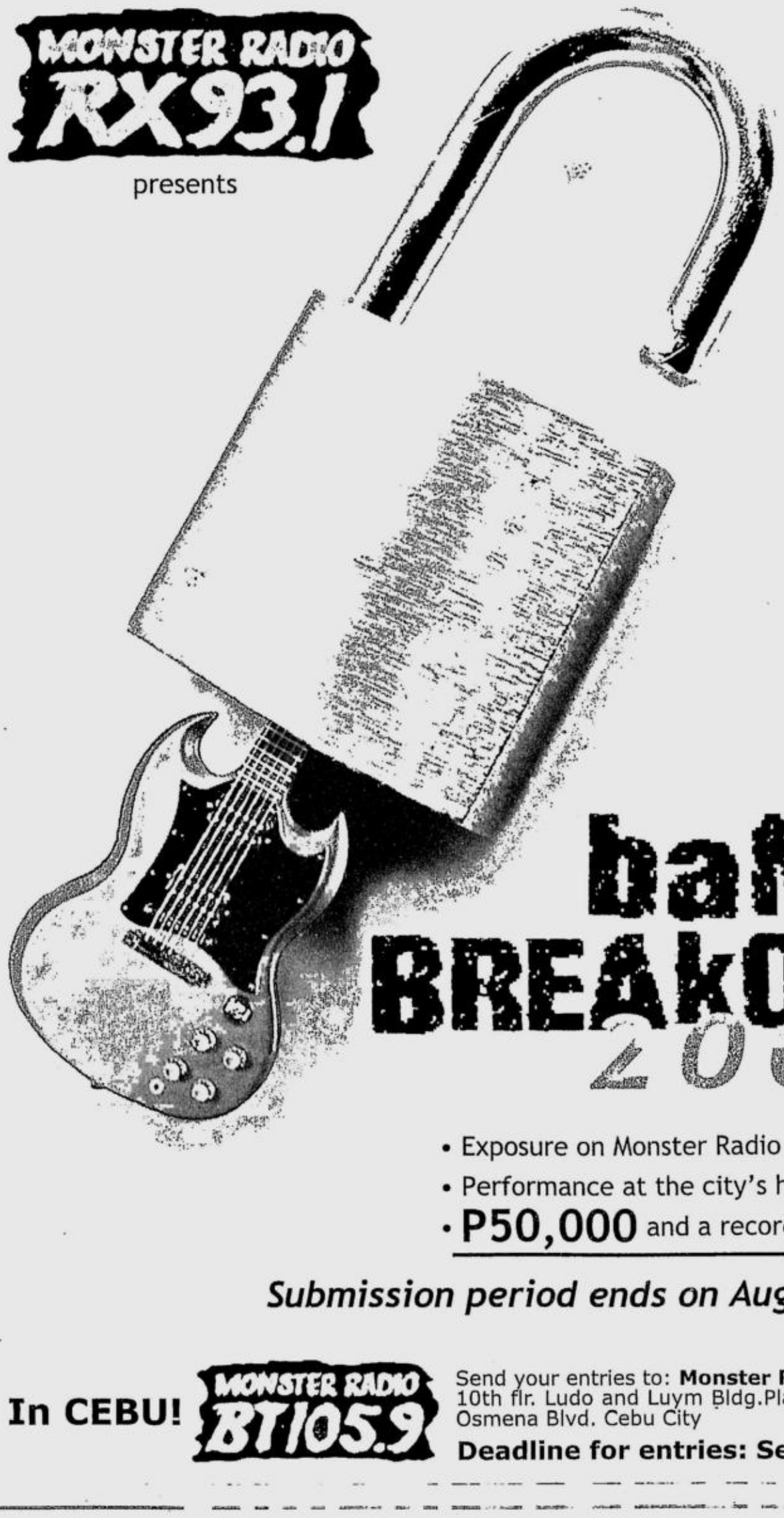
From page E3

jeans line of them all? In a survey of British consumers aged 18-30, Diesel was tagged one of the coolest labels around. The survey sought to find out who and what is hot and is out! Even **Karl Lagerfeld**, designer for Chanel and his own label, has joined the "coolest" bandwagon and is designing for Diesel.

I recently saw the latest Diesel advertising materials and they are just fantastic. Photographed by Belgian **Carl de Keyser**, they show youths in states of unrest and near-violence but instead of slogans that read: "Nuke 'em" or "Overthrow the government," the copies read "Respect your Mom," "Respect the goldfish," "Share your bath water," and, my particular fave, "The world needs more love letters"—all reminiscent of '70s peace-love slogans.

Diesel jeans have become hotter than hot and are among the most sought-after in the world. In Manila, Diesel stores can be found in Glorietta, Power Plant and Robinsons Galleria.

E-mail the author at asd-world@hotmail.com



For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Weddings & Engagements

GINGGAY and Noel dela Merced

A love big enough for a billboard

EXPRESS ADVICE

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WHAT do you do when a man professes his love to you via a huge billboard for everyone to see? You either cringe with embarrassment, laugh or feel proud.

Ginggay Joven did none of the above. Instead, she cried like a baby when she saw that billboard the day after her wedding.

This outpouring of love from her groom, Noel dela Merced, more than made up for the last-minute change in their wedding rites due to typhoon Juan.

It may not have turned out to be the wedding she wanted, but she was proud and so happy for being so loved by the one person who mattered to her: her husband.

When Noel talked about his marriage vows to Ginggay, the 300-plus guests were dumbfounded. They had never heard anything like it before—someone being so open about his feelings.

"I did so many wrong things in my life, but I must have done something right to deserve to be here with you tonight," the groom said, bringing tears to his bride's eyes. "I will be the best husband, father, friend and person to you. Business has taught me the uncertainty of the future, but I'm comfortable with this thought knowing I will be facing the future with you."

It was a miracle of sort that, despite the typhoon, it did not rain the whole afternoon until evening of the wedding.

Ginggay looked radiant in her elegant Inno Sotto gown. The sponsors also looked elegant: Virgie Ramos and Gina Rodriguez in Sotto ensembles; Millet Mananquil in a Joe Salazar creation; Ching Cruz in an gown; and Nelia Silverio Dee in a two-piece ensemble. Elegant in *barong* were male sponsors Choy Cojuangco, Ricky Silverio and Francisco Colayco. Inno Sotto and Raymond Moreno were dapper in suits.

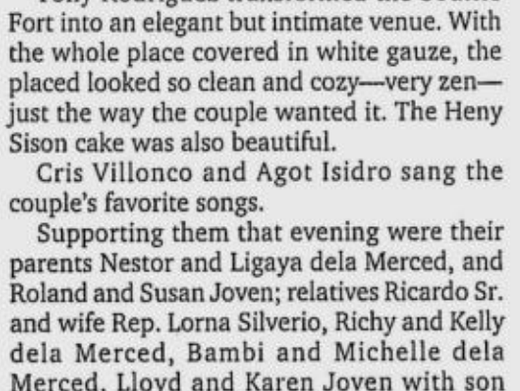
Tony Rodriguez transformed the Souffle Fort into an elegant but intimate venue. With the whole place covered in white gauze, the placed looked so clean and cozy—very zen—just the way the couple wanted it. The Heny Sison cake was also beautiful.

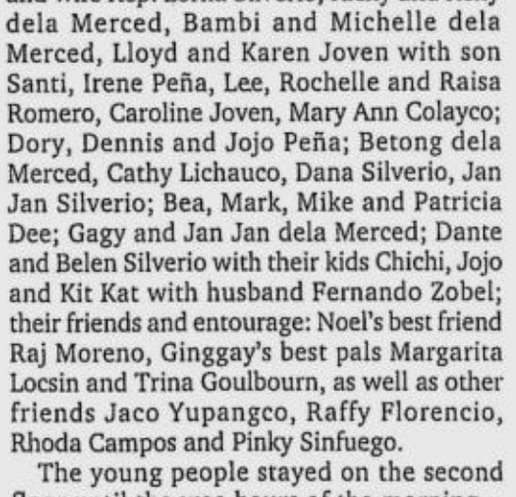
Cris Villonco and Agot Isidro sang the couple's favorite songs.

Supporting them that evening were their parents Nestor and Ligaya dela Merced, and Roland and Susan Joven; relatives Ricardo Sr. and wife Rep. Lorna Silverio, Richy and Kelly dela Merced, Bambi and Michelle dela Merced, Lloyd and Karen Joven with son Santi, Irene Peña, Lee, Rochelle and Raisa Romero, Caroline Joven, Mary Ann Colayco; Dory, Dennis and Jojo Peña; Betong dela Merced, Cathy Lichauco, Dana Silverio, Jan Jan Silverio; Bea, Mark, Mike and Patricia Dee; Gagy and Jan Jan dela Merced; Dante and Belen Silverio with their kids Chichi, Jojo and Kit Kat with husband Fernando Zobel; their friends and entourage: Noel's best friend Raj Moreno, Ginggay's best pals Margarita Locsin and Trina Goulbourn, as well as other friends Jaco Yupangco, Raffy Florencio, Rhoda Campos and Pinky Sinfuego.

The young people stayed on the second floor until the wee hours of the morning—dancing, drinking and laughing. The girls

A LOVE/ p.F2





BRIDESMAID Rhoda Campos and maid of honor Margarita Locsin

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THE NEWLYWEDS with *ninangs* Virgie Ramos and Ching Cruz; (second row) Gina Rodriguez, Millet Mananquil and Nelia Silverio Dee

WITH the groom's parents Ligaya and Nestor dela Merced

KATRINA Goulbourn

WITH groomsmen Jaco Yupangco, Lloyd Joven, best man Raj Moreno, Raymond Gonzales and Raffy Florencio

BRIDE'S mom Susan Joven (seated) with Maurice Arcache, Angeli Sison, Sari Yap and Anton Huang

A love big enough for a billboard

From page F1

scrambled for the bridal bouquet.

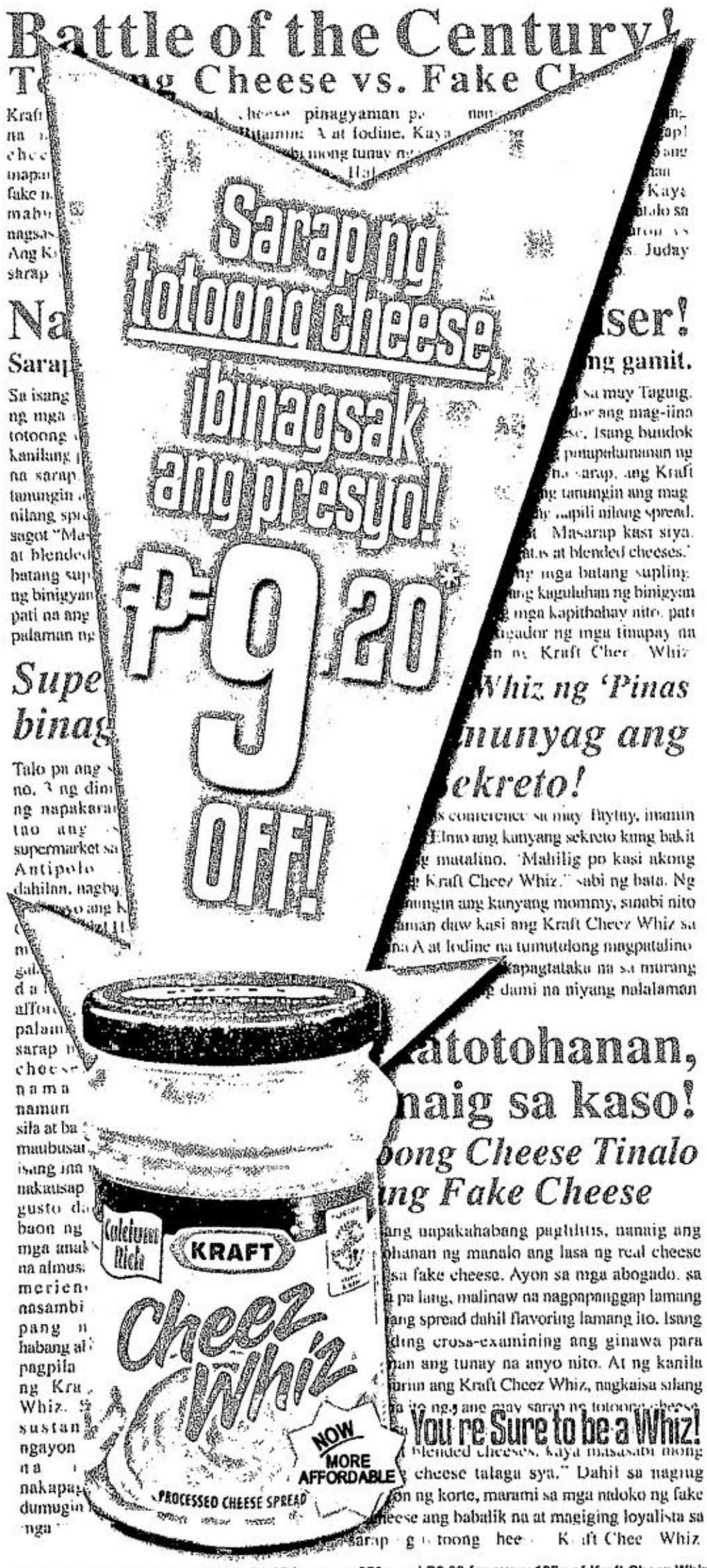
Others who attended were mom Susan's friends Sen. Loren Legarda, Criselda Lontok, Monique Villonco, Girlie Rodis, Nena del Rosario, Anton Huang, Angeli Sison, Maurice Arcache, Ethel Timbol, Anton San Diego, Therese Santos, Alex and Rose Libongco, Francis and Maryann Lumen, Perry and Robina Gokongwei-Pe, Rikki and Beng Dee, Maritel Nievera and Dori Shani, Miguel Ramos, Msgr. Manuel Gabriel, Dupil and Lita Garcia, Albit Rodriguez, Chit and George Salud, and J. Anton Gonzales.

Other friends of the couple who were there included: Lexi Schulze, Javi Berenguer-Testa, Anna Cruz, Manolet Dario, Luis Espiritu, Santi Picornell and Kimmy Johnson, Tina Montinola, Thess Gonzales, Pepper Teehankee, Vince Hizon, Philip and Tricia Cu-Unjieng, Ricci Chan, Marlon Rivera, Rosanna Escudero, Cher Calvin, Tina Pamintuan, Gutsy Tuason and Becca Dosch, Paolo Prieto and Clara Sevilla, Joel Tantoco and Victoria London, Nino Zulueta, the Moreno family, Sid and Jeannie Goulbourn, Vivian Yuchengco, Enrique and Tina Vasquez-Prada, the Antonio brothers, Alexis Ledesma, Judith Zapanta, Cessie Colayco, Marzo and Rizza Samson, Robby Mananquil, Mia Tambunting, Stephanie Zubiri, Sec. Mike Defensor and wife Julie (who has been Ginggay's friend since grade school).

ANNA Cruz, Ciara Sevilla, Ginny Martelino, Tina Pamintuan and Thess Gonzales; (standing) Paolo Prieto and Ria Romero

WITH Anton San Diego, Vanessa Dulay and Fernando Zobel; (seated) Chi-Chi, Dante and Belen Silverio, Kitkat Zobel and Cathy Lichauco

WITH Inno Sotto and Marissa and Choy Cojuangco



*Save up to P9.20 for every 500g, P4.65 for every 250g and P2.80 for every 125g of Kraft Cheez Whiz.

When SMART throws a party, it makes sure that everyone will have the time of their lives. SMART doesn't leave a single stone unturned just to ensure that it will be one memorable event: This was very evident when SMART hosted Simply Ibiza in celebration of the network's almost 7 million subscribers. Two simultaneous parties were held at the Bonifacio Global City; one at the vast open spaces of The Fort and another one at the NBC Tent. People from all walks of life trooped to White Hot Ibiza, a concert topbilled by SMART main man, Mr. Martin Nievera, together with Ms. Lani Misalucha, Barbie's Cradle, South Border and a slew of other entertainers. Meanwhile, a dance club party was simultaneously going on at the nearby NBC Tent, simply entitled Space Ibiza. Global Underground's Dave Seaman brought the house down with his kind of music mix, where thousands of partyphiles partied until the wee hours of the morning. Famous celebrities partied hard and SMART while DJ Anton Ramos served his own brand of music at the VIP lounge of the NBC Tent.

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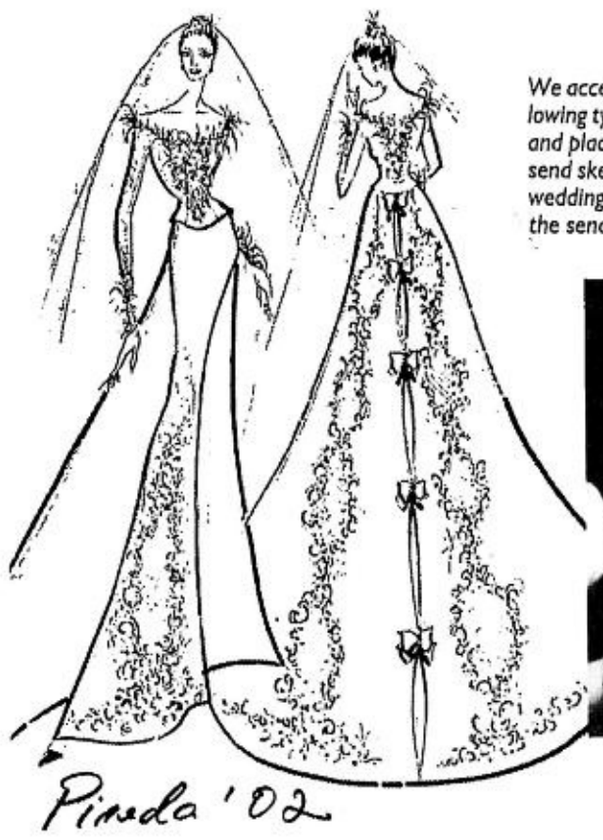

Milestones

We accept announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send in the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and related brief information. Readers may send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

HERNANDEZ-BALDONADO

Bernadette Baldonado married **Miguel Hernandez** last Aug. 3 at the Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church, Long Beach, California, US.

The bride wore an ivory silk satin gown with an off-shoulder bodice designed by **Eric Pineda**, in keeping with the wedding's "Cinderella" motif. The entire gown was heavily beaded in a stylized "Victorian" pattern using caviar beads, faux pearls, flat sequins, rhinestones and Swarovski crystals. A 25-foot double train held by handmade French bows was adorned in the same pattern. Ostrich plumes were liberally scattered to add drama and texture. A 10-yard veil of illusion tulle held by a tiara of Swarovski crystals completed the ensemble.

Reception followed at the Renaissance Long Beach Hotel, Long Beach, California.

MARCIAL-MENDOZA

Dr. **Alexander Marcial,** son of **Falconeri T. Marcial Sr.** and **Myrna E. Marcial,** and Dr. **Rona Mendoza,** daughter of engineer **Romeo R. Mendoza** and **Nona Teresita V. Mendoza**, exchanged vows on June 15 at the Divine Mercy Chapel, Xavierville I Subdivision, Loyola Heights, QC. Reception was held at the Xavierville I Subdivision Pavilion.

MALAPITAN GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Israel and **Lucila Malapitan** recently marked their 50th anniversary by renewing their wedding vows at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1523 Golden Gate Ave., Los Angeles, California, US. Reception followed at the Grand Ballroom of Beverly Garland, Holiday Inn, Universal Studios Hollywood 4222 Vineland Ave., North Hollywood, CA.

GOCE DEBUT

Merrene Joy A. Goce, daughter of **Renato** and **Mercy Goce**, celebrated her 18th birthday last July 20 at Bayview Park Hotel, Manila. A sophomore at the University of Santo Tomas taking up BS Medical Technology, Merrene wore a two-piece light blue gown of organdy and satin. The skirt, which featured a bouquet of roses at the back, was embellished with sequins and bugle beads.

Thelma D. Daquioag of Makati designed the debutante's gown.

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IT SOLUTIONS/HELPDESK ENGINEER

Qualifications: Graduate of ECE, Computer Engineering or Computer Science; with at least two (2) years relevant work experience as Network Engineer, Technical Support, Sales Engineer or Systems Administrator preferably from an Internet company; Very good oral and written communication skills; Hard working, highly motivated, results-oriented and with unquestionable integrity.

IT APPLICATIONS ENGINEER

Qualifications: Graduate of ECE or Computer Engineering; Microsoft Certified; preference will be given to applicants who are Cisco CCNA/Red Hat Linux Certified; Knowledge in proxies and firewalls; Must have maintained various mail servers. Willing to work on a 24x7 shift.

ACCOUNT MANAGER - CORPORATE SALES

Qualifications: Graduate of any four- (4) year course; with at least two (2) years relevant work experience in IT Sales; Service oriented, a team player, excellent in inter-personal relations; With excellent oral and written communication skills

SALES ADMIN OFFICER – CONSUMER

Qualifications: Graduate of any four- (4) year Business course; with at least two (2) years work experience in the same capacity, preferably acquired form a multinational company and/or an ISP; Must be results oriented, a self-starter, and a Team Leader; With Finance/Accounting background, and excellent oral & written communication skills.

ACCOUNT MANAGER/OIC - BULACAN HUB

Qualifications: Graduate of any four- (4) year course; with at least three (3) years selling experience. A/R management and office admin preferably, in an Internet or TelCo company; must be familiar with basic Internet application; Self-motivated, detail-oriented with excellent inter-personal relations skills and strong leadership qualities. Preferences will be given to those residing in the Bulacan area.

MIS SUPPORT ENGINEER

Qualifications: Graduate of ECE, Computer Engineering or Computer Science; with at least two (2) years work experience in the same capacity gained from an ISP; must be familiar with Linux-based products and highly proficient in Linux Operating System.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Qualifications: Graduate of any four- (4) year Business course; With at least two (2) years work experience in Business Development, Brand Management, Market Research, and/or Product Development; Analytical, strategic, resourceful, technically adept, and possesses a strong sense of urgency; has initiative and excellent communication and inter-personal skills; preferences will be given to applicants with experience in doing market research and financial analyses. Exposure in an ISP or Internet-related company is an advantage.

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As we progress, we are inviting qualified individuals to fill in the following key positions for our Manila-based operations.

PROGRAMMERS/ANALYSTS

(Code:PD)

- *to participate in the development and maintenance of application software components (i.e. coding and system testing)*

- with working knowledge of any of the following languages:
  JAVA, Unix, C, C++, Cobol and Web-based programming
- must possess a University Degree in Computer Science with good academic record
- must be self-directed and have strong leadership presence and business acumen
- with excellent oral and written communication skills

Technology that liberates

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(Code:RA)

- *to perform online audit review services for international airline companies*

- must possess a University degree with good academic record
- preferably with 1-2 years Office experience
- must have good analytical skills and the ability to research and troubleshoot complicated audit matters
- must have good grasp of Microsoft Office Products
- with excellent oral and written communication skills
- previous airline experience is a plus, but not required
- must be willing to work on shifts, weekends, and holidays
- must be willing to undergo pre-employment training (allowance provided)

Interested applicants may send their resume, recent photo, and official transcript of records to:

The Human Resources Department
NAVITAIRE
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8767 Paseo de Roxas Street
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THE WORLD BANK

World Bank Office Manila

Position Title: Economist

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- Assist the Lead Economist and provide economic/financial reports and sector-wide or country-wide inputs to World Bank management, government counterparts, private sector representatives, members of civil society and academe, and other stakeholders, as required;
- Carries out a variety of economic analysis tasks, participation in economic policy research and design symposia and other public engagements;
- Participate in developing and implementing country specific economic policy work, including collecting/analyzing data, and prepare chapters of economic reports, loans or research papers;
- Participate in missions in area of economic specialization, provide economic inputs and guidance to counterparts, and assess economic policy issues;
- Monitor economic, financial and poverty trends and developments within the country and prepare briefs as needed by the Lead Economist, Country Director and/or Poverty Reduction and Economic Monitoring (PREM) Sector Director;
- Manage, under the supervision of the Lead Economist, specific Trust Fund supported activities of the World Bank.

Below are the desired minimum qualifications, skills and competencies for the position:

- Master's degree or Ph.D. in Economics from an accredited local or foreign university, Banking, Finance, Development, Poverty and/or Trade focused specialization is a plus;
- Strong macroeconomics background with at least five (5) years of professional experience similar to the workings of the World Bank and/or experience in public sector institutions or in the financial sector and a working knowledge of Government policies in the fiscal, monetary, budget, national accounts and balance of payment areas;
- Outstanding interpersonal and networking skills demonstrated by the candidate's ability to develop strong and effective working relations with colleagues, Government counterparts, academe, private sector, and civil society groups;
- Excellent and effective team player with a strong client and results orientation, a high degree of adaptability and practicality, yet also able to work independently and with minimum supervision;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, together with an ability to think strategically;
- Proficient computer skills as well as excellent written and verbal skills in English.

The appointment will be for one or two year fixed-term by mutual agreement, with a possibility for renewal. This position is subject to local recruitment and compensation package and offers an attractive and challenging opportunity to work on key development challenges facing the Philippines.

Please send your application letter, with a curriculum vitaé containing details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details), and copy/ies of recently completed written paper/s **not later than August 26, 2002**, to the address below:

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

CBRMP is a government project under the Department of Finance with financing assistance from World Bank. It seeks to pump-prime and enhance the capacities of the Local Government Units in region to manage their natural resources and rural development concerns. The project invites qualified applicants for the following vacant positions.

1 MONITORING & EVALUATION SPECIALIST for Central CBRM Office

Qualifications:

- Must be a graduate of a four-year degree course in the field of economics, statistics or math;
- Must have a least three years experience in monitoring and evaluation of rural development and natural resource management projects;
- Must have at least three years experience in working with the local government units, government agencies, and local communities/people's organizations;
- Must have a working knowledge in the formulation of a project logical framework/project planning matrix and community-level/participatory M&E;
- Must have a working knowledge of database management;
- Must have a least 20 hours of relevant training, particularly on logframe, results monitoring, and community-level M&E;
- Must be computer literate (esp. Word and Excel) and with good communication and writing skills;
- Must be physically fit and willing to travel in remote upland and coastal areas.

1 TECHNICAL ASSISTANT FOR MONITORING & EVALUATION for Central CBRMP Office

Qualifications:

- Must be a graduate of a four-year course in Computer Science, Computer Management, or any other course related to Information Technology;
- Must have at least three years experience in the development, operations, and maintenance of management information systems;
- Must have at least three years experience in data gathering/analysis, and monitoring and evaluation of community-based NRM projects;
- Must have at least two years experience working with local government units, government agencies, and communities/people's organizations;
- Must have at least working knowledge in the application of "4GL", proficient in windows application, with at least 20 hours of relevant training;
- Must be physically fit and willing to travel in remote upland and coastal areas.

3 FINANCIAL ANALYSTS

Qualifications:

- Must hold a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or BSBA major in Accounting;
- Preferably a Certified Public Accountant;
- Must have at least three years experience in a foreign assisted project;
- Must have at least two years experience working with local government units or government agencies;
- Must be able to assist the LGUs in the preparation of the Financial Report, the Work and Financial Plan and the Procurement Plan;
- Must be able to maintain records of fund release and subsidiary ledger;
- Must be computer literate especially on windows application
- Must be physically fit and willing to travel in remote upland and coastal areas.

1 ACCOUNT ANALYST

Qualifications:

- Must hold a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy;
- Preferably a Certified Public Accountant;
- Must have at least one year experience in a foreign assisted project;
- Must have at least one year experience working with local government units or government agencies;
- With relevant experience in financial statement analysis;
- Must be computer literate especially on windows application
- Must be physically fit and willing to travel in remote upland and coastal areas.

1 IEC Assistant

Qualifications:

- Graduate of a four-year course in Development Communication, Social Sciences or Natural Sciences and/or an equivalent experience and hands-on training on those fields;
- At least two years experience in IEC work and production of instructional materials in the natural resources, fisheries, forestry, agriculture, environment, or rural development sectors;
- Documented track record in writing news and feature articles, and editing and lay outing newsletters, pamphlets and other such publications.

1 Community Development - Technical Assistant for Livelihood

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Community Development, Sociology, Agriculture, Forestry, Forestry, Fisheries or related fields;
- At least three years of substantial experience in community development/organizing in people-oriented development projects (government or NGO-implemented) that have strong economic or livelihood support components directed at rural communities;
- With practical experience in livelihood project development and planning, and sufficient exposure to/ knowledge of a wide range of rural-based livelihood technology options;
- With good technical writing and communication skills and working knowledge of Microsoft Office software applications;
- Has experience working with the LGUs, communities and government agencies; and
- Willing and physically fit to travel to remote rural areas of Regions 5, 7, 8, and 13.

1 Community Development-Technical Assistant for Institutional Development

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in either Community Development, Sociology, Psychology, Management, Public Administration, or other related fields;
- At least three years of substantial experience in community development/organizing in people-oriented development projects (government or NGO-implemented)
- With substantial experience in institution-building of community-based organizations and/or cooperative development, organizational assessment, grassroots leadership development and training management;
- With good technical writing and communication skills and working knowledge of Microsoft Office software applications;
- Has experience working with LGUs, communities and government agencies;
- Willing and physically fit to travel to remote rural areas of Regions 5, 7, 8, and 13.

Interested applicant s may send their letter of application, resume, transcript of records, and 2x2 picture on or before **15 August 2002**:

The Project Director
Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP)
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Department of Finance Executive Building
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YUTAKA MANUFACTURING (PHILIPPINES), INC.

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

QUALIFICATONS:
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Mechanical or Industrial Engineering
- Male - 28 to 35 years old
- Computer Literate is advantage
- With at least three years working experience on Electro-Mechanical and related tasks
- Familiar on Maintenance & Repair of Pneumatics, Hydraulics, Machine Controllers, Electrical Equipments, Press Machines, Welding Equipments, Programmable Controllers & Robotics, Lightings
- Know how to operate Gensets, Air compressor, Pumps, and Boilers, High Voltage Switch Gear, Electroplating Line, Manual and Automatic Welding Machine.

MACHINE MAINTENANCE/TECHNICIAN

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Graduate of Technical/Vocational Course
- Male - 21 to 28 years old
- Computer Literate is advantage
- With at least one to two years working experience on Electro-Mechanical
- Familiar on Maintenance & Repair of Pneumatics, Hydraulics, Machine Controllers, Electrical Equipments, Press Machines, Welding Equipments, Programmable Controllers & Robotics, Lightings
- Know how to operate Gensets, Air compressor, Pumps, and Boiler, High Voltage Switch Gear, Electroplating Line, Manual and Automatic Welding Machine.

E.D.P. ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING CLERK

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Male/Female, 21 to 28 years old
- With at least one to two years working experience in related tasks
- Have knowledge in computer repair and trouble shooting

FINANCE CLERK/COST ACCOUNTANT

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Commerce Major in Accountancy
- Male or Female, 21 to 28 years old
- Computer literate
- With at least two years working experience in Finance or Accounting preferably in a manufacturing company
- With knowledge in bookkeeping and/or Cost Accounting

Interested party may send resumé with recent photo or apply personally on August 12-14, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to the address below for immediate interview:

General Affairs Department
YUTAKA MANUFACTURING (PHILIPPINES) INC.
110 North Science Avenue
Laguna Technopark
Biñan, Laguna

LBP SERVICE CORPORATION
Committed to the people we serve

The **LBP Service Corporation**, a prestigious manpower solutions provider, is in need of applicants with the following qualifications:

PROGRAMMER
- Male / Female
- Not over 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year computer-related course with extensive knowledge in Visual FoxPro
- Highly organized, analytical, and can work under pressure even on extended hours

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
- Male
- Not over 35 years old
- Must have 5-7 years experience in project management including design, cost-estimation, and project implementation
- Proficiency in CADD operation is preferred, while use of MS Word and Excel software is required

Interested persons are invited to visit our office at the **9th Floor, Century Tower, 100 Tordesillas corner H.V. Dela Costa Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City**. Questions and inquiries may be directed to Juliette or Valerie at **753-1625**. You may also email us at **lbpsc@mozcom.com**.

Please come in business attire.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

An importer and exclusive distributor of several tire and motor oil brand offers a competitive package to qualified applicants for the following position:

SALES OFFICER

Motor Oils Division

- 25 to 35 years old;
- with productive experience in the field of automotive parts industry, particularly tires and lubricants;
- honest and hardworking, with excellent communication skills;
- must have valid driver's license.

APPLICANTS MUST SEND THEIR RESUMÉS WITH TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS WITH PICTURE TO:

TASCO, INC.
No. 70, 20th Avenue, Murphy, Quezon City
Phone Nos. 911-6207; 911-8891

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

A Telecommunications Systems Integrator is in need of a high caliber and experienced:

(1) SALES MANAGER

QUALIFICATIONS:
1. Male or Female
2. ECE graduate, with a minimum of 5 years experience in selling Telecom Equipment
3. With technical background/experience in microwave radios, cellular equipment, and telecom hardware/software systems
4. Must have experience in dealing with key people in the telecom industry
5. Must possess track record in selling

(3) SALES ENGINEERS

QUALIFICATIONS:
1. Male or Female
2. ECE graduate, with 2 years experience in selling Telecom Equipment
3. With excellent communication skills
4. With knowledge in microwave radios, cellular equipment, and telecom hardware and software systems
5. Must have experience in dealing with key people in the telecom industry

Due to the urgency of our requirements, interested applicants are requested to apply in person or send through fax their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 ID pictures to:

ASIAN HIGH TECHNOLOGY CORP.
Guevent Building, #49 Libertad Street,
Mandaluyong City
Fax No. 531-0422
E-mail: ahtc@globenet.com.ph

A Fast Growing Importer of High-End Quality Interior Products

is in immediate need of

MARKETING EXECUTIVES

- M/F, not over 35 years old
- Graduate of Marketing or its related course
- 1-2 years field work experience in related products
- Contacts with Architects & Designers an advantage
- Preferably with driving experience
- Good communication skills
- Possess an aggressive & organized character

Interested applicants may send their resumé, 2x2 picture & transcript of records to:

HRD-Code #ME202
P. O. Box 2928 MCPO
Makati City

Rustan's

urgently needs...

BEAUTY CONSULTANTS

- ☑ Female, between 21-28 years old
- ☑ Graduate of any (2) two-year Business related course
- ☑ At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality and clear complexion
- ☑ Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology and Make-up Artist skills
- ☑ Good in oral communication skills

SALES ASSOCIATES

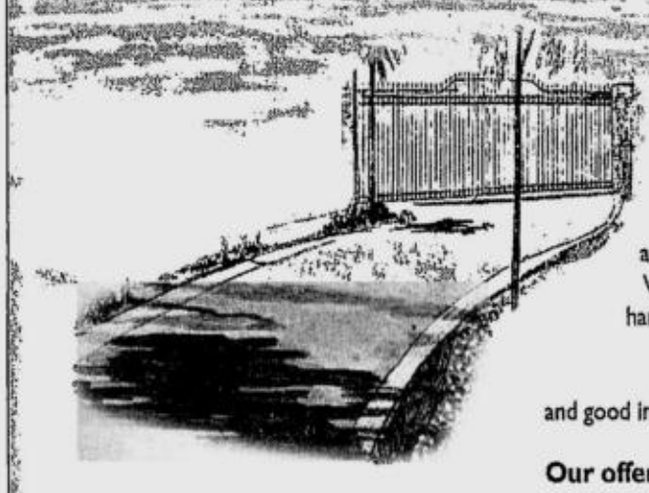
- ☑ Female, between 21-28 years old
- ☑ Graduate of any (2) two-year Business related course
- ☑ At least 5'2" in height with clear complexion
- ☑ Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling
- ☑ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- ☑ Good in oral communication skills

Interested applicants may apply personally to:

RUSTAN'S HEAD OFFICE
G/F Rustan Building, EDSA, Mandaluyong City
(near Ortigas fly-over, across Corinthian Garden in EDSA)
Applicants may be accommodated from Monday to Thursday
between 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

We are giving away P20 million+++ worth of commissions this year!

The Columbary



Agents and brokers, part-timers and fresh graduates are welcome to take home big money. We are looking for a team of creative, hardworking, physically-fit, open-minded and people-oriented professionals. Sharp marketing instincts and good interpersonal skills will be a great plus.

Our offer:
- **double the standard commission rate**
- **regular training to familiarize yourself with the market and the product**
- **marketing program and support**
- **company incentives and bonuses**

For interviews, be at our office at 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

It is very hard to pass up on an opportunity like this. So bring your resume and visit us at:
7th floor One Joroma Place Bldg.
Congressional Ave. cor San Beda St., Quezon City (atop Max's Restaurant)
For more information, please call 425-15-08 to 10.

SM needs dynamic and career-oriented professionals to join our team in *Bicutan*

SELLING MANAGERS / SUPERVISORS
graduate of any 4-year business course
at least 1 year experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity
personable and can handle customer concerns and complaints effectively

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGERS / SUPERVISORS
graduate of any 4-year business course
with pleasing personality and can handle customer concerns and complaints effectively
at least 1 to 2 years experience in customer relations

COUNTER & CHECKING MANAGERS / SUPERVISORS
graduate of any 4-year business course
at least 1 year experience in cash or credit card transactions in the same capacity
flexible and can handle customer concerns and complaints effectively

CUSTOMER RELATIONS SERVICE MANAGERS / SUPERVISORS
graduate of Criminology or at least 2nd year college
flexible to different work assignments and willing to be assigned in provincial branches
must be physically fit and willing to work on extended hours

Candidates for the position should have the following competencies:
excellent communication skills, both verbal and written form
can relate well to all levels of the organization
proficient in computer software applications
team-player, goal-oriented and able to work well under pressure
willing to grow with the organization
willing to work on weekends and holidays

Interested parties may apply personally from ***Mon. to Fri., 9am - 4 pm at the Personnel Department of SM Bicutan Department Store, Doña Soledad Avenue, Bicutan, Parañaque City.*** *(Please bring 3 pcs. 2 x 2 colored picture with white background and photo copy of your Transcript of Records and College Diploma together with the original copy.*

E-mail : Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

GeoSpatial Solutions
BEYOND SPATIAL INTELLIGENCE
www.geospatial.com.ph

Meet interesting people. Learn about the latest in information systems and geospatial technologies. Be part of an innovative development team and a progressive information technology (IT) firm that prides itself in providing quality service and products to its clients. **Apply to GeoSpatial Solutions, TODAY!**

We are looking for the following ICT Professionals to be part of our team:

VB/ORACLE PROGRAMMER

GIS PROGRAMMER/ANALYST

FINANCE OFFICER

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

SALES AND MARKETING ASSOCIATE

GeoSpatial Solutions is seeking individuals who are willing to commit to the ideals of the firm and who are challenged by the demands of the IT industry. The candidates should have at least two (2) years of relevant working experience preferably with background in IT, team player, resourceful, and possess good communications and interpersonal skills.

Personally apply at **3102-C East Tower, PSE Ctr. (Tektite Towers), Ortigas Center, Pasig City** or send your resume to **hr@geospatial.com.ph**. Only qualified applicants will be called for an interview.

INFORMATICS COMPUTER INSTITUTE
www.informatics.edu.ph

Join the Global Leader in IT Training and Education

We are an I.T. company composed of young IT professionals who are success-driven and result-oriented. INFORMATICS, the WORLD'S LARGEST NETWORK OF COMPUTER TRAINING INSTITUTE, invites aggressive and self-driven individuals to be part of its training and education centers in the Philippines and in the Asia Pacific region. COMPETITIVE BENEFITS PACKAGE, PROGRESSIVE SALARY INCREASE, EXTENSIVE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, FAST PROMOTION and POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENT await successful candidates!

These openings are for our branches in Robinson's Galleria and SM Bicutan

CENTER MANAGERS
- Bachelor's Degree Holder, Master's degree is an advantage
- Competitive with ability, drive and desire to deliver outstanding results from both a revenue and profitability perspective,
- Intellectually creative.
- With a proven ability to motivate and develop a cohesive, team-oriented sales and marketing group
- Very strong management and leadership skills
- Result-oriented
- With strong interpersonal skills
- With strong business sense and maturity, entrepreneurial, maximizes the use of relatively limited resources by utilizing creativity, ingenuity and hands-on implementation,
- Good communication skills, both oral and written
- Customer-focused
- With an up-to-date knowledge of current trends and emerging marketing initiatives

COURSE CONSULTANS
- Graduate of any 4-yr course,
- Preferably Marketing graduate with good communication skills
- Good written and communication skills
- 20-30 years old

IT TRAINING SPECIALISTS
- 20 to 40 years old
- B.S. Comp. Sci., Comp. Eng. graduate or any computer related course
- With good communication skills
- Knowledge in IT applications or any IT specialized field

Send your resume together with 2 x 2 picture and Transcript of Records to 2F Security Bank Bldg., 228 Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, MM • Tel. 727-8481 local 118 Fax 722-9490 E-mail: invitation@informatics.edu.ph

PHILIPPINES SINGAPORE BAHRAIN BANGLADESH BRAZIL BRUNEI CAMBODIA CHINA HONGKONG INDIA INDONESIA OMAN NEPAL NIGERIA MACAU MALAYSIA MAURITIUS MYANMAR PAKISTAN ROMANIA SAUDI ARABIA SRI LANKA SOUTH AFRICA SOUTH KOREA SWEDEN TAIWAN THAILAND UNITED KINGDOM VIETNAM ZIMBABWE

Big Fashion Chain Store

NEEDS FOLLOWING:

AREA MANAGERS
College graduate, computer literate
At least 2 yrs. Experience in Retail
Has an eye for fashion
Male/Female, 25-35 yrs. Old
Good leadership skill
Willing to travel w/in MM & nearby provinces

STORE MANAGERS/ ASSISTANT MANAGERS
College graduate, computer literate
At least 2 years experience
Good communication skills
Has an eye for fashion
Male/Female, 21-27 yrs. Old

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
BS Psycho or related course
At least 2 years experience
People oriented with communication skill
Male/Female, 21-27 yrs. Old
Willing to travel w/in MM & nearby provinces

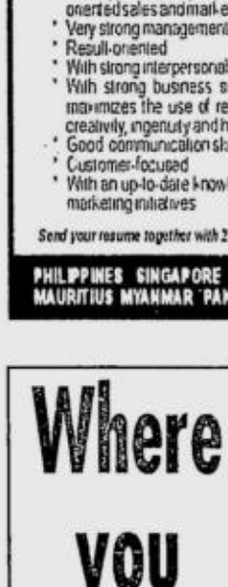
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
College graduate, preferably business course
Very good communication skill
Proficient in English
Not more than 27 yrs. old

MERCHANDISER
College graduate
Pref. related to any Fashion Design & Retail Merchandising Store
At least 2 years experience in Retail
Has an eye for fashion
21-27 years old, computer literate

SALES ASSOCIATES
College level, not more than 25 years old
Male/Female/Gay with pleasing personality

Bring or mail resumé with 2x2 picture, TOR
29 Mayon St., Quezon City
(near Welcome Rotunda)

Where you find the best.



JOB MARKET ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

A PROGRESSIVE EXPANDING PACKAGING/PRINTING COMPANY IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

VP IN CHARGE OF ROTOGRAVURE OPERATIONS
- Preferably male, not more than 40 years old
- Minimum of 10 years experience in rotogravure operations including experience in computerized printing process
- Graduate of Engineering, preferably I.E., Civil or Mechanical
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Salary open and negotiable

ROTOGRAVURE OPERATORS
- Preferably male, not more than 35 years old
- Minimum of 5 years experience as Rotogravure Operator
- Thorough knowledge of rotogravure printing process including experience in computerized printing process
- Able to write and communicate well
- College graduate, preferably in Engineering

Interested applicants are requested to send their resumé to:

c/o BOX No. KA-022-02UG
Philippine Daily Inquirer
6/F, Trinity Bldg.,
636 T.M. Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila

V.L. CHAN LAW OFFICE & ASSOCIATES

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

LAWYERS PARALEGALS

We are looking for LAWYERS with positive mental attitude, at least two (2) years in practice, who wants a well-rounded legal practice and expertise in law positioning strategy.

We are likewise in search of PARALEGALS who have a solid background in legal research and writing and who are willing to develop a craft in the legal setting.

Interested parties may call MS. JOSIE ROSARIO at Tel Nos. 7246629 / 7219283 or send cover letter and resumé at Fax No. 7217102 or email at vchan@lawpositioningstrategy.com and vchan@compass.com.ph

You may visit our website at: www.lawpositioningtrategy.com to view the firm's profile.

"We respond and create opportunity because WE CARE."

JOB MARKET
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.

SMALL enough to listen

BIG enough to be heard

A small company marketing BIG projects is in need of :

SALES OFFICERS

- Asst Vice Presidents for Sales
- Sales Directors
- Sales Managers
- Sales Consultants

✓ Must be able to build own sales organization
✓ Results-oriented, dynamic, responsible leaders

Please bring your resume and come in business attire to :

5/F Strata 2000,
Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Monday to Friday,
August 12 to 16, 2002,
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Please look for Ms. Fe Sanchez-Corpus, President

PROJECTS:

ANTIPOLO CITY
St. Gabriel Heights
St. Alexandra Estates

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, CAVITE
St. Joseph Homes

DASMARINAS, CAVITE
Santa Catalina Village

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA
Santarosa Estates 1 & 2

STO. TOMAS, BATANGAS
San Antonio Heights
San Rafael Estates

BATANGAS CITY
San Isidro Village

LIPA CITY, BATANGAS
Villa Sta. Monica
Sta. Monica Country Estates
(farm lots, hacienda estates)

LUCENA CITY
Santa Isabel Village

TAYABAS, QUEZON
San Juan Estates
Santa Barbara Homes

NAGA CITY
San Francisco Village

CAMARINES SUR
San Ignacio Estates
San Alfonso Homes

PARANAQUE
medium rise housing

SOUTHEAST REALTY & DEVELOPMENT, INC.
A Marketing Partner of Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc.
A subsidiary of Ayala Land, Inc.

National Economic and Development Authority
Mainstreaming Sustainable Development and Philippine Agenda 21 into National, Regional and Local Governance (MSD PA 21 Project)

URGENT RECRUITMENT

The Mainstreaming Sustainable Development and Philippine Agenda 21 into National, Regional and Local Governance (MSD PA 21), a project supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is in need of the following personnel to fill-up available contractual positions in the Project Management Office (PMO):

Technical Assistants (2)

The Technical Assistant shall provide technical support in planning, implementation and monitoring of various project activities. He/she shall be based at the NEDA Central Office but shall be assigned to travel in project pilot sites in Luzon.

Minimum Qualifications:
Academics:

- Bachelor degree in Social Sciences, Agriculture, Human Ecology, Environment and Development Planning
- At least 16 hours of relevant training

Skills/experience required:

- 2 years relevant experience
- With experience working with LGUs and Civil Society
- Familiarity with Sustainable Development and Local Governance Concepts and Issues
- With experience in project development, implementation and management
- Excellent coordination and communication skills

Monthly salary: Php 18,000.00

Send your Application with Resumé and Transcript of Records to:

The Project Manager, MSD Project
3/F Agriculture Staff, NEDA Building,
12 Blessed J.Escriva Drive,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Deadline of Submission: August 19, 2002

DOME

Dome Café is a chain of outlets in the Philippines, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai and Indonesia offering a wide array of fine foods and gourmet coffees. We set the pace for new standards of experience in operating cafés.

We are looking for aggressive, dynamic, pleasant and service-oriented individuals to fill the following positions:

Café Managers
Supervisors
Chefs
Bakers
Service Crew
Cooks
Receptionists
Handyman/Electrician

Requirements:

☑ Experience in similar capacity
☑ HRM/HRD graduates preferred
☑ 18 to 35 years of age

Benefits:

☑ Attractive salary and fringe benefits
☑ Excellent opportunity for career advancement
☑ Cross training in other Dome Cafés abroad

Interested parties may send their resumés to:

Dome Café
Unit 5-G Strata 100, Emerald Avenue
Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
or Fax resumé to 638-6769

---

500 NURSES NEEDED FOR USA EMPLOYMENT

CGFNS & TOEFL with recent Hospital, Public Health and or Out Patient Clinic experience preferred

NON CGFNS & TOEFL with recent Hospital experience are WELCOME

No Agency or Placement fees
Permanent Greencard Visa Paid
Offers assistance for review classes for CGFNS, TOEFL & TSE

You can fax or mail to the address below.

Nursing Resources International, Inc.

13938 A Cedar Road
Suite 357
University Heights, Ohio 44118-3204
216+378-0653 (telephone)
216+378-0685 (fax)
www.find-a-nurse.com

Or

Email **DSPLAIN@Find-a-Nurse.com**

WANTED

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

TOURS MANAGER

- Male or female
- With extensive background in inbound / outbound tours operation of a travel agency
- At least 30 years old but not more than 40
- Excellent communication, planning skills
- Salary negotiable

SALES EXECUTIVE

- Female, single
- At least 23 years old but not more than 30
- Salary commensurate to qualifications

Interested applicants may send their Resumé with recent 2x2 picture to:

REGENT TRAVEL CORPORATION
IATA PTAA MEMBER
1415 General Luna Street
Paco, Manila
Attn: **Personnel Officer**

A YOUNG AND DYNAMIC COMPANY

Engaged in cosmetic equipment sales is looking for:

One (1) Medical Equipment Specialist

Qualifications: Graduate of Nursing or Paramedical course
Sales experience in cosmetic market preferred
Can work with least supervision
Hardworking and persevering

Please send resumé at

Unit 717 City and Land Megaplaza
ADB Avenue corner Garnet Road
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Telephone: 688-8422 (Contact: Anna)
Or fax to **Telefax: 687-2695**
Email address: radiancyphils@mydestiny.net

The **Foundation for Entrepreneurial Development Inc. (FEDI)**, a non-governmental organization, with a community based child and family program at Pasay City is in need of:

Social Worker(s)

✓ Female/Male, single not more than 25 years old
✓ Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) graduate
✓ With at least 2 years experience in NGO-Child and family program;
✓ Good communication skills (oral and written)
✓ High sense of family values, responsible, hardworking and organized
✓ RSW licensed but not required
✓ Computer literate

Interested applicants can send/or bring their resumé with photo together with transcript of records and previous employment certificate (not later than August 26, 2002) to:

The Executive Director
Foundation for Entrepreneurial Development Inc.
Rm. 104, David 1 Bldg.,
#567 Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City 1552

An established and fast growing infrastructure / utility corporation is looking for:

ELECTRICIANS (2)

Qualifications:

- minimum of two (2) years related experience in residential, building and roadway/expressway electrical works (installation, repair and maintenance)
- must have completed at least twelve (12) hours of related training for the last five (5) years
- must either be an Electrical Engineering graduate or at least must have completed two (2) years of any related electrical vocational or technical course
- Licensed Master Electrician would be an advantage
- Trade Test Certification from TESDA would also be an advantage (minimum as 3rd class Electrician or Jr. Electrician)
- must be able to interpret and execute electrical plans
- should have good moral character and can work independently or with minimum supervision
- all other personal skills that could help in the company's operations would be considered as other advantages

A competitive compensation package awaits you. Interested applicants are invited to send their applications together with curriculum vitaé, diploma, transcript of records and recent passport-sized photo to:

PEA TOLLWAY CORPORATION
PEA Tollway Compound
Aguinaldo Boulevard, Parañaque City
Attention: Administration/HR Department
or thru E-mail: irvin@peatc.com.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

A growing and dynamic Law Firm with a diverse client base is in **URGENT** need of

LAWYERS

Qualifications:

1. not more than 30 years of age;
2. graduates of a reputable law school in Metro Manila;
3. with at least 1 year experience in litigation

Please submit your resumé with recent photo to:

The Hiring Partner
501 One Magnificent Mile-Citra Building
San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

DMCI HOMES
Beyond Houses Lasting Homes

DMCI Homes, the housing division of DM Consunji, Inc., one of the largest and most respected names in the construction industry is looking for highly motivated people to manage and head its sales groups.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN
OUR SALES TEAM IF YOUR ARE

Highly ambitious and set on sales and marketing career
College graduate
With good communication skills
Preferably from Pasig or Ortigas area

We offer competitive compensation packages and extensive training for qualified applicants, come in person with 2 x 2 photo to this address not later than August 23, 2002. Previous applicants need not apply.

G/F DACON Building
2281 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City

The best companies need the best people.

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

GM

General Motors Automobiles Philippines

The GM Difference!

WE ARE SHIFTING TO HIGH GEAR

Be part of the world's biggest automobile company

We are in need of topnotch personnel to fill below mentioned position immediately!

INTERNAL CONTROL and BUDGET COORDINATOR

Code: ICBC

Knowledge and Experience:

- ⇨ CPA, not more than 35 years old, preferably female.
- ⇨ Must have held the same or similar position gained in a multinational company. Experienced with big 5 auditing firms will be an added advantage.
- ⇨ Must have proven skills in providing adequate internal control environment.
- ⇨ Must have exposure in development of policies and procedures.
- ⇨ Must have extensive experience in budget.
- ⇨ Must be computer literate and proficient in Microsoft Office applications.

Competencies:

- ⇨ Good organizational skills.
- ⇨ Positive working attitude and analytical mind.
- ⇨ Excellent in time management.
- ⇨ Self-motivated with a strong commitment and drive to deliver.
- ⇨ Able to relate well with others at all levels.

Please send your application documents with contact numbers, and recent 2x2 photo to address below with position code indicated in the envelope:

FINANCE DIRECTOR
General Motors Automobiles Philippines
33rd Floor, Citibank Tower Condominium
Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

One of the top 1,000 corporations is in urgent need of

FINANCIAL ANALYST

- ➢ CPA with very good academic credentials
- ➢ With 1-2 years work experience in accounting, finance or treasury management, especially in budget / cash flow preparation
- ➢ With strong analytical, quantitative, and communication skills
- ➢ Can work well under pressure, systematic, dependable, self-motivated, fast learner, and can work well in a team environment
- ➢ Highly proficient in Microsoft Office Suite

R&D CHEMIST

- ➢ Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry
- ➢ Preferably Male
- ➢ Willing to be assigned in Carmona, Cavite

Fresh graduates are welcome.

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

- ➢ Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering
- ➢ With good communication skills
- ➢ Highly proficient in Microsoft Outlook and Lotus Notes

E-mail or fax your comprehensive resumé stating your current and desired salary, with transcript of records and most recent photograph, not later than **August 13, 2002** at:

E-mail address: richel@paccohq.com
Fax No. **817-4946; 812-6908**

THE DOCUMENT COMPANY
FUJI XEROX

Wants only the BEST!

LOGISTICS MANAGER

At least 30 years old; graduate of any four (4) year Business/ Engineering course; has at least five (5) years experience as Logistics Manager; has very high ethical standards; has good oral and written communication skills; computer literate; responsible, mature, and self-driven; can work long hours with minimum supervision. He/she must have extensive knowledge in:

- ➢ inventory planning and control,
- ➢ spare parts and materials management
- ➢ warehouse operations and delivery systems
- ➢ importation systems and processes

SALES MANAGER

At least 28 years old; graduate of a four (4) year degree course, preferably Business, Engineering, or Computer Science; IT literate; self-motivated, self-driven; has very good interpersonal skills; has very good oral and written communication skills; has at least five (5) years experience in sales or marketing, has good track record in sales; has experience in managing the sales process and a sales staff, knowledge of manufacturing and distribution industries as clients is an advantage.

PHILIPPINE FUJI XEROX CORPORATION
19th Floor, 6788 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 886-7075 to 94 loc. 109.
Pls. look for or e-mail Ms. Juvy Vidal at
juvy.vidal@phl.xerox.com

THE HERITAGE HOTEL
MANILA

Join a Hotel that values individualism.

The Heritage Hotel Manila is managed by the Singapore-based Millennium and Copthorne International Limited. Ranked as Asia's largest hotel group, its London-based subsidiaries Millennium and Copthorne Hotels plc, has, under its division, Millennium and Copthorne Hotels and Resorts, a stable of 91 hotels in 17 countries. Sixteen of these hotels are managed by sister subsidiary company, City E-Solutions Limited (CES).

We are now inviting dynamic and dedicated individuals to apply for the position of:

TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

Responsibility

- In-charge of maintenance of the hotel's software systems and customized programs. Conducts necessary training to users of the new system features and capabilities.

Requirements

- With a degree in B.S. Computer Science or Computer Engineering or related discipline.
- Proficient in oral ft written communication.
- Strong leadership and management skills.
- Team player, resourceful and creative.
- With at least 3 years experience in the same position as well as handling Operating Systems and platforms (Novell Netware 4.x, Windows 98/NT/2000 and Unix ODT3/ODT5), hands-on programming in CA-Clipper 5 and Visual Foxpro 6, Local Area Network (LAN), cabling, PABX, TCIP/IP protocol, firewall, network security and internet client set-up
- Has knowledge in Fidelio and Micros 8700 P.O.S. systems, Office 2000/XP, back-up systems and Wingate 5.x.
- Has experience in PC troubleshooting, software installation and configuration.

Compensation package will commensurate according to the candidate's overall qualification and experience.

Interested parties must submit their application letters, resumé (indicating their expected remuneration package) and 2"x2" photo no later than 13 August 2002.

The General Manager
The Heritage Hotel Manila
Roxas Boulevard corner EDSA, Pasay City,
Metro Manila, 1300 Philippines
Telephone: (632) 854 8888 Facsimile: (632) 854 8833
E-mail: execoffice@heritagehotelmanila.com
MANAGED BY THE MILLENNIUM & COPTHORNE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

A German Manufacture of Building Materials is employing highly motivated, career oriented and well educated team players. And have a vacancy for the following positions – FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

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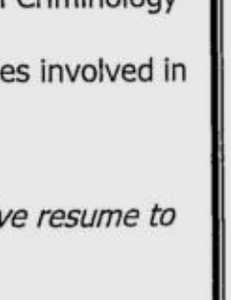

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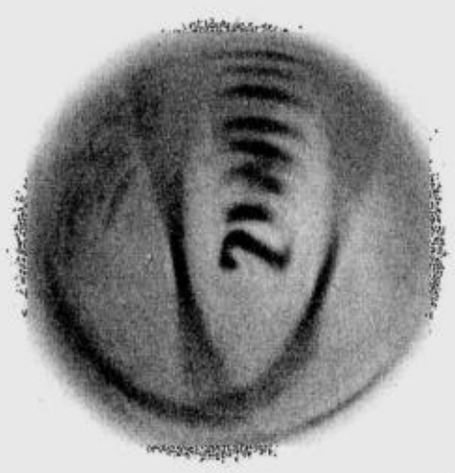

The Big J Plays Hardball

Controversy has often nipped at his heels, but there's just no tripping the country's oldest cage star who likens life in politics to a frenzied ball game

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento

Sen. Robert S. Jaworski, who recently delivered crucial points to the administration party by switching alliance virtually in the last two minutes of the Senate count, was banned for life for hitting a referee in 1971. Although the ban was eventually lifted, the Big J of Philippine basketball had often been described as a bully for his rough and tumble style of play. His volatile temper had occasionally put him on the spot, as when he resigned in protest as playing coach of Ginebra San Miguel when its management hired an assistant coach without consulting him.

Elected to the Senate in 1998, Jawo figured in the news in the final giddy hours of EDSA 2, when all of President Estrada's men were rushing to pledge loyalty to the emerging Arroyo leadership. As TV cameras recorded the new recruits at the EDSA Shrine, Jawo was caught on video hightailing it out of there under the protective wing of his in-law, administration supporter Tingting Cojuangco, as an unruly crowd surrounded him. Along with ten other senators, he had earned the people's ire when he voted to keep the envelope of Estrada's jueteng donors sealed.

Jawo's defection, a fastbreak that even his teammates at the opposition did not see coming, again pulled him into the vortex of vicious tirades. He had bartered the switch for the deferred payment of a P300 million business loan from the Philippine National Bank, sniped some quarters.

Not true, counters this senator who has since shucked his affiliation with Estrada's party, the Laban ng Makabayang Masang Pilipino and is now an independent. The loan was fully collaterized, he adds, and has since been assumed by his partner in the shipping business. He wonders as well why the issue was brought up only now, when the loan was obtained in 1997.

No favors were asked nor given for his newfound allegiance, says the 56-year-old senator. He did it "For country and family: to break the Senate impasse and as a favor" to his ailing father-in-law, administration senator Ramon Revilla, he says.

In a slow measured tone that he must have used to deliver those paternal pep talk to his players, Jaworski points out: "Look at the situation in the Senate. What do you hope to achieve with a 12-12 slate? I feel sad because I cannot fathom the seeming animosity that has prevailed. There must not be room for that. This (standoff) must end for the welfare of those who put us in office."

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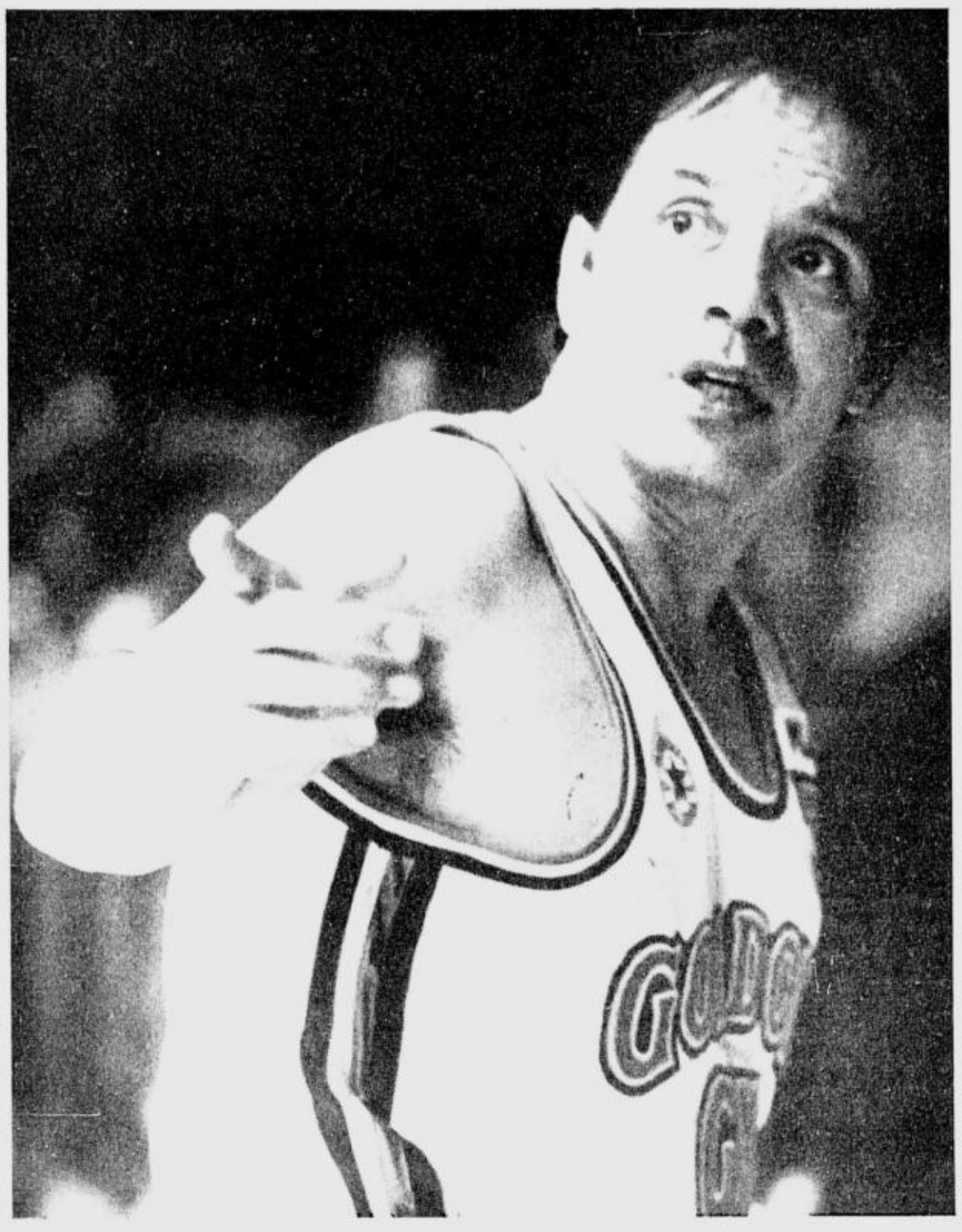
BIG J

...from page 1

The Living Legend of Philippine basketball brings his toughness to the Senate



To those who might accuse him of ditching the opposition's sinking fortunes in favor of the administration's rising star, the former point-guard says gruffly: "I don't want to be a hypocrite: it's a combination of that and family ties, but what's wrong with that? The key thought must be, is it the right thing to do given the situation in the Senate? *Di ako balimbing*. (I'm not a turncoat). I do what I can geared toward public welfare. *Di ako* plastic. I told the (opposition) the whole story. That's how I live."

Although he considers himself "very independent" in his politics, Jaworski admits that family pressure can be crucial in his decisions, what with his son Robert Jr. (Dudut) married to Mikee Cojuangco, the daughter of administration stalwarts Peping and Tingting and his father-in-law Ramon Revilla switching from the opposition to the administration party.

Valid or not, such consideration does little to enhance public perception that he remains a lightweight legislator who got elected based on his basketball scores. It's a charge that makes the Big J hot under the collar.

"I know myself," he says with a flash of annoyance. "It doesn't mean that if you speak better English, you're better than me."

He's a gifted athlete, says Jaworski, a reputation that has unfortunately boxed him in merely as a jock. "There are so many geniuses in our midst who say I'm a lousy senator," grouses this chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. "Now I can prepare speeches that can touch even the angels in heaven but is that serving the public?"

In a beleaguered tone, he adds: "I've done my share of legislative work, too, especially laws that benefit athletes. I have this Athletes Incentive Law (RA 9064) that gives athletes, coaches and trainers such benefits as scholarships, job opportunities, medical discounts and cash if they win honors for the country. *Ang masama, wala man lang nagkwento na ako ang* author *nito*."

He has great plans for a grassroots sports program, continues the senator who grew up playing basketball at the open-air court of the Barangay Tenement Housing project of Pandacan. "We must address the structural flaws of our sports programs, starting with the grade school curriculum. We must decide which sport we should aggressively support for international competition."

Indeed, the man who used to wear jersey no. 7 remains a cager at heart. Coaching, he says, remains the most fulfilling side of the sport. His best contribution to local basketball, says Jaworski, "was getting mediocre players and making them realize that they can be as good as the next guy. I tell them there's so much ahead of them, and not just in basketball."

THE young Jaworski had exactly the same thoughts when he started playing basketball at the University of the East where he took up marketing and management in the mid-'60s. "*Masarap maglaro*, but I also saw the sport as an opportunity," admits this athlete/scholar in college.

The only child of Polish American soldier Theodore Jaworski was born March 8, 1946 in Baguio City where his grandfather, Felix Jaworski, worked as mining engineer. He grew up with his mother Lou when his parents had a falling out, says this former cager. Some ten years later, he adds, his mother remarried and gave him five stepsiblings. It was a spartan and disciplined childhood, he recalls, with his mother, now 76, drilling into them strict rules of conduct. "*Dapat nasa lugar lahat*."

Jaworski grew up in a working class neighborhood and attended public schools— the Manuel Roxas High School and the C. Salvador Elementary School, "but everything was okay. I don't remember ever running out of food or sleeping on the streets. We were comfortable and there was strong family support."

It was in college where Jaworski met his wife, Evelyn Bautista, daughter of action star Ramon Revilla, with whom he has four children: Ricci Elaine, Robert Vincent Jude (or Dudut), Ryan Joseph and Ron Michael, and five grandchildren.

It was also in college where he would discover his lifelong passion for basketball as a member of the UE Warriors. "It's a beautiful sport, it's poetry in motion," he says of basketball. "The moves are always new and different."

It is also a poor man's sport, he points out: "You only need one ball and already, a whole community can enjoy the game." The game has many parallels with life as well, notes the former coach. "Nobody can exist alone. You need teamwork to achieve your objective. *Di ka pwedeng hambog o bastos at lalong di pwedeng patumba-tumba ka* (you can't be arrogant or rude, but you can't be a wimp either). *Teka muna, itutulak na lang ba ako dito?* (Will you just let other people push you around?)"

Such philosophy might have led to Jaworski being seen as a bully, a label he takes exception to. "People who don't understand basketball would say that. But look at my physique and look at the law of physics. It's very simple: if a lighter object is stationary, and a heavier fast moving object with momentum slams into it, *titilapon yan* (it would fly). And that's how basketball works: five guys giving another a screen, while the other team tries to steal the ball. Now they have to hold their ground or they'll get smashed in the process."

The label has not stopped him from reaping the country's major awards in the sport. Considered the country's oldest player in the professional league for playing the sport at 52 in 1998, Jaworski won the Most Valuable Player Award in 1978 while playing for Toyota Corolla. He is also listed as one of Philippine Basketball Association's 25 all-time greatest players and was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the league. Three decades in the game have earned him four championship titles as coach—in 1986, 1988, 1991 and 1997. He was also the coach of the 1990 Asian Games.

SUCH acclaim and celebrity are but a short step away from the really big league, in this case, politics.

Like others before him, the Big J cites public service as his main reason for joining the fray. "I've tasted the best things in life, but at the same time, I've touched base with the poorest of the poor. So if you give me a law, I'll study it and tell you whether it's a good law. It must be applicable to the times and your constituents."

His being a basketball player is actually a plus, he adds. "We can't all be lawyers. Lawmakers must come from all sectors of society. What is more important is the readiness to move legislative work and commitment to the disciplined application of the law."

Still, the Big J couldn't resist taking a few shots, in streetwise Pilipino, at the august body. "Life in the Senate is a movie. So many characters! Sometimes a fly would pass, sometimes an angel, and all for a purpose. Fine with me, as long as they don't hit me below the belt. Some people believe they're the only children of God. *Bah, mahirap naman iyon* (that's nonsense). *Ngayon, kung talagang may papeles sila na pirmado ni* Jesus, *na nagsasabing inatasan sila ng Diyos na mamuno dito dahil wala silang kasalanan, amen* (Now if they have papers signed by Jesus attesting to the fact that God has asked them to lead us because they're virtuous, fine). But we'll have to check such claims first. Otherwise, let us coexist and respect each other. We're a growing people."

As a growing nation, he adds, "We must look at those laws that have lessened in effect and relevance. We have to go with the times without surrendering our sovereignty." One such example, he points out, is the Mutual Logistics and Support Agreement (MLSA). "Let's look at this as an opportunity. The point being addressed is terrorism; I do not know who would welcome terrorism in their life and maybe we have not been victimized, but should we wait for another catastrophe to happen? We only need to negotiate well, not clutter up the issue with so many negatives without offering a solution."

Despite his outspoken views, Jaworski takes pains to distance himself from traditional politics and politicians. "I want you to know, I am not a politician and that's why I get into trouble."

Three "tumultuous years" and after authoring several bills that protect natural resources, wildlife and their habitat, as well as the Clean Water Act, the senator has only one regret: "I wish we had experienced a process of impeachment based on the structures that we have. As it was, the procedure was not terminated according to the law. I believe the subject of impeachment should not be in the Constitution as far as the President is concerned. Why not address the graft charges after his term? Life doesn't stop for the President when he's already out of office. At least by then, he'd be less influential."

Another issue that sticks in his maw is public perception about his role at EDSA 2. Talks about his being chased out of there by an irate mob are simply not true, he says. "No, no, no, *linawin natin*. I went there because I have a responsibility. I saw it on television, *nabasag yung mukha ng matandang babae* (an old woman got hurt) and (the two opposing forces) were going to meet. *Ang nasa puso ko lang*, since the President's pillars of support are gone, his supporters should go home because the situation was getting too hot *at magkakamatayan lang tayo* (there's bound to be bloodshed).

"That's all. *Hindi ko rin gustong magbidabidahan* (I wasn't there to play hero). What for? I'm senator until 2004, I don't need new votes. The real story was that everybody was welcoming me, embracing me, shaking my hand, until I saw maybe five or six people and I knew at once, oops, here's trouble. I know crowds, so when I saw this, I turned back. *Nag-iisa lang ako*, I had no bodyguard. If people can't appreciate that, well, sorry. I'm not here to please everybody.

"*Alam mo, mahal ako ng tao*. They know that when I step into the court, I give my all, I do what's needed to win. *Pero di pwedeng wawalanghiyain tayo eh pababayaan natin* (But I won't let people walk all over me and get away with it)."

Despite his fighting stance, this celebrity endorser of sports shoes, energy drink and beer, sometime movie star (he did 16 movies, including one with Nora Aunor), earnest senator and one of the country's most popular basketball players would rather be remembered as simply "the guy who did his best, who did his share and who always believed that we can live together in the spirit of fairness and equal opportunity."

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"Assimilation," from the 19th Kulay sa Tubig exhibit at Gallery Genesis, until Aug. 13. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Where the Flow Goes

This is a weekend that I move about
The house disrupted by lack of power.
Cables are splayed about by the roadside
Like improbable snakes
In the clutter of leaves, the old and venerable
Acacia trees shorn of imperial branches,
And the men still wrapped up in their labor
To bring back the light.

This simple lack somehow has brought me back
To the essence of living, where contact
From the world is severed
And I get to see through the spirituality
Of the trees shaken by the strong winds,
The condition of every other being,
And raineloud moving heavy
And portentous, hanging lower and lower
Across this land of fragile dreams.

In the evening my eyes strain to trail
The thoughts of ancient souls,
Poets and mystics, through the flicker
Of a candle light.
I seek solace from their humanity
And I believe I can grow to be content
With the basic lack of things like power,
Like home, like desire, like self.
One incontrovertible law pervades this existence,
A leveling that always yields to the flow,
Nothing extravagant, nothing destitute,
All going in one direction.

Teddy G. Espela

Huling Sayaw sa Balse ni Chopin

Ang balseng iyon
ang naging huling sayaw natin.

Mula sa gitna ng bulwagang-sayawan
ay nilipad natin ang kalawakan—
sa ilalim ng maririkit na bituin
ay sinundan natin ang ritmo
ng pintig ng ating mga puso
at sumayaw tayo sa ibabaw ng mga ulap
at nagpaikot-ikot sa nakangiting buwan
habang umiindayog ang tunog
ng pamamaalam ni Chopin.

Wari'y nakipagsayaw sa atin
ang mga dios at diosa ng kalangitan,
hanggang sa ilapag tayo ng isang bulalakaw
sa isang mahalimuyak na hardin.
Ngunit pagtunog ng huling nota ng balse
ay inulila ng samyo ng bulaklak ang hangin.

Ang balseng iyon
ang naging huling sayaw natin.

Sa mga gabing nakangiti ang buwan
at dumadaluyong sa himpapawid
ang bango ng mga bulaklak, madali kong
kinakapa ang mga itim at puting
tekladong matagal nang nahihimbing,
at sinusubukan kong patunugin
ang himig ng huling sayaw natin
at baka sakali ay marating kong muli
ang langit.

Luis C. Morano

Pleasant Surprises with SMART IDD and SMART International Texting

Wala lang. Such seemingly innocent words signifying, quite literally, nothing. Yet it is a concept of nothing, ever-present in our Pinoy culture, that means much more than its literal translation. Implicit in wala lang is often the notion of for-no-reason-at-all-but-just-because....

Take the idea of calling or texting our loved ones overseas. Admittedly, many of us call or text abroad for a purpose - to relay news, to greet during a special occasion, to ask for a *padala* or a *pasalubong*, etc. But wouldn't it be great if when they pick up the phone, or receive your text, they find out that the reason for the call or text is...*wala lang*, you just wanted to say hi...or *wala lang*...you just wanted to chat with them...or *wala lang*...you just wanted to share this great joke that's been going around?

Fortunately, calling and texting internationally is now both easy and affordable - thanks to SMART!

Anyone with a SMART Gold or SMART Buddy Celfone can use the SMART International Direct Dialing (IDD) or SMART International Texting services - no need to activate or request for IDD access. Just dial [+] [Country Code] [Area Code] [Party's No.] and then press send on your SMART GSM handset. (Here's a tip: store your international contacts on your phone or SIM memory - that way, your family and friends are just an address book-browse away!) The mobility and convenience of SMART IDD calls are ideal - you can make those calls, even on-the-go! Which means any place is the right place to make that special call to your loved ones abroad. And at only 40 cents a minute to over 150 destinations worldwide, SMART IDD is certainly the most affordable means to say hi, catch up, check on how a homesick buddy is coping, or... *wala lang*, you just wanted to hear their voice again.

Now, if time doesn't allow for a decent conversation, you can let your friends and loved ones know you still think of them through SMART International Texting. International Texting is so easy - it's not much different from sending ordinary text messages. Just be sure to send your message through the following international format: [+] [Country Code] [Area Code] [Party's No.] and then press send on your SMART GSM handset. For as low as P10 for postpaid plan subscribers and P15 for SMART Buddy customers, International Texting is an amazingly affordable alternative! So send Pinoy humor, sweet nothings and your favorite graphics to make your friends and family feel like they're just as close to you as the rest of your friends on your regular texting list.

It always feels good to know you're in another person's thoughts and it feels good to be loved. Conversations and displays of affection don't have to be so deep, so long, or so loud. Just a couple of words or just a friendly chat is enough to let the other person knohow
much you miss them and that you still care. Now, with SMART IDD and SMART International Texting, you can convey all the warm feelings of home - at an affordable price!

Calling or texting the ones we love is a trait that is truly Filipino. Thanks to SMART, we can keep on calling and keep on texting our loved ones abroad because... *wala lang*, it's the natural Pinoy thing to do.

SMART, Metrobank Join Forces to Offer Consumers Mobile Commerce Via SMART Money

The world's first GSM-based mobile commerce platform, SMART Money, has just received its biggest boost to date - a tie-up with country's largest bank, Metrobank.

The tie-up allows SMART Money users maintaining Metrobank savings or current accounts to reload their SMART Money cards via Mobile Banking. Conversely, Metrobank clients can now avail of the numerous conveniences offered by the award-winning SMART Money service.

With SMART Money, SMART subscribers can engage in a myriad of financial transactions with just a few clicks of their fingers. These transactions include:

*. Paying for goods and services, face-to-face. As a partner of MasterCard, SMART Money is accepted in over 20,000 MasterCard Electronic establishments in the Philippines, as well as all MasterCard outlets abroad.
* Reloading prepaid airtime. Reloading your own or someone else's SMART Buddy or Talk 'n Text Celfone anytime and anywhere is now just a few clicks away. With SMART Money, there no longer is a need for actual prepaid cards.
* Performing remote purchases. Through SMART Money's remote purchase capability, ordering, paying for - and even, delivery - of pizza, burgers, movie tickets and flowers is as easy as texting.
* Transferring cash values, wallet-to-wallet. With SMART Money, transferring cash values from one SMART Money card to another is possible. Parents can give their children SMART Money cards and then transfer their allowance from their card to their kids'. Those with children enrolled in schools in faraway places can even send payments for tuition, books and school supplies at a cost much more affordable than using money transfers or couriers.

With Metrobank's extensive banking network nationwide, there are now more branches where subscribers can deposit money to their bank account and easily transfer cash value to SMART Money with just a few clicks on his SMART mobile phone. This makes mobile banking SMART Money-style even more convenient. Metrobank has over 500 branches scattered across the country.

Make that SMART move and try out SMART Money today. It now comes bundled with SMART zed in the all-new 64K Super SIM, offered with new SMART Gold and SMART Buddy subscriptions. Visit your nearest wireless dealer for more information.

SMART Cinema Club and Austin Powers are Simply Shagadelic!

Everybody's wanted to be a spy. The mystery, the intrigue, the sexy British accent, the beautiful women, the gadgets. For over thirty years, these elements have served as the basis for what a good spy film is about. That is until 1997, when

, first hit the big screen. Comedian Mike Myers delivered a tour de force performance as the fashion photographer/super spy who was frozen in the 1960s and returned in the 1990s to battle arch enemy Dr. Evil. Myers outdid himself with

, two years later and the sequel was an even bigger hit.

Now, the SMART Cinema Club and Pioneer Films, in cooperation with service content provider Information Gateway, are proud to bring you the latest installment in the adventures of everyone's favorite shagadelic spy,

. SMART Cinema Club members can access official Austin Powers logos, group graphics, picture messages, screensavers, ringtones and games! Key in AUSTIN and send to 239 to get an interactive menu of all available Austin Powers services. SMART Cinema Club members can win premiere tickets to

, as well as three brand new MMS-capable Nokia 7650s per week! SIM swapping to SMART also entitles you to FREE Austin Powers t-shirts!

When the first Austin Powers motion picture was shown in 1997, audiences worldwide couldn't get enough of the hilarious antics of Austin Powers, the world's greatest spy in the 1960s who was cryogenically frozen like his arch-nemesis, the bald and brooding Dr. Evil. When Dr. Evil was thawed out in the modern world, his plans for world domination with his furless cat, Mr. Bigglesworth, the loudmouthed Frau Farbissina, the eye-patched Number Two, and his smart-aleck son Scott Evil were so diabolical that only one man could stand up to the challenge. Thus, Austin Powers emerged into the 1990s, and his taste for free love, swinging parties, and sexual innuendos proved to be a comedic hit for all ages.

Myers deftly played both Austin and Dr. Evil, adding the character of Fat Bastard in the sequel,

. In this second installment, Austin encountered new challenges such as a clone of Dr. Evil who was only 1/8 his size, Mini-Me, as well as the threat of losing his mysterious "mojo".

When we last saw Dr. Evil and Mini-Me, they were escaping in outer space, foiled once more by Austin. Now they're back, they've got revenge on their minds, and they've joined forces with a new villain simply known as Goldmember. Austin must now travel back to 1975 where he enlists the help of his father, super spy Nigel Powers (played by Michael Caine) and the seductive Foxy Cleopatra (BeyoncÈ Knowles of Destiny's Child) to save the world once more.

Just type in AUSTIN and send to 239 to see the menu of the many Austin Powers choices available. Various picture messages and ringtones are available for Ericsson, Siemens, and Nokia phones. There are also colored backgrounds available for Ericsson phones and animated screensavers and polyphonic ringtones for certain Nokia phones.

From August 10 to 20, 2002, SMART Cinema Club members get the chance to win a pair of free premiere tickets in daily raffle draws by simply downloading regular Austin Powers icons. Each icon download earns one raffle entry, so the more downloads you make the more chances of winning! Active SMART Money Cardholders may also get a pair of FREE premiere tickets if they use their SMART Money Card to purchase movie tickets in any cinema of SM Megamall, Southmall, Manila and North Edsa from August 10 to 20, 2002. The SMART Cinema Club Premiere of Austin Powers is on August 24, 2002 in SM Megamall.

SMART is also giving away a FREE Austin Powers t-shirt for every SIM swap to SMART for the period of August 10 to 31, 2002 in all TSI Outlets and SMART Wireless Centers nationwide. This isn't just any SIM swap however, as SMART will provide the brand new SMART 64K Super SIM when you swap to SMART!

Finally, by playing the Austin Powers 70s Trivia Game, SMART Cinema Club members can win the brand new Nokia 7650 if he or she becomes one of the top three players with the most correct answers within the week. The promo will run for four weeks, and will be giving away a total of 12 brand new Nokia 7650 celfones with SMART 64K Super SIM pack each. Play and answer as many questions as you can and that Nokia 7650 might just be yours! Promo is from August 25 to September 21, 2002.

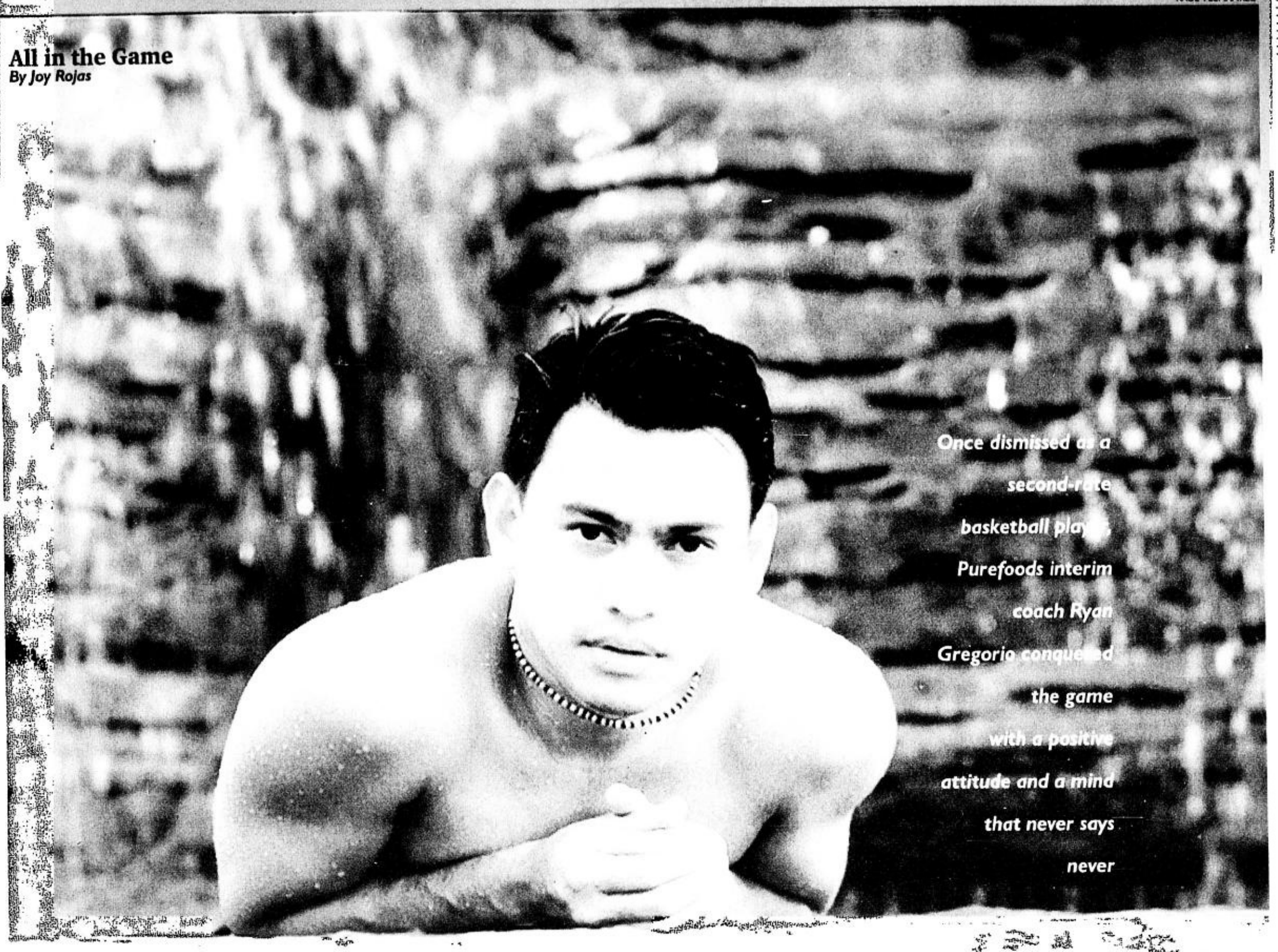
So get your groove on, join the SMART Cinema Club now, key in JOIN CINEMA and send to 239, and get ready to swing with SMART and Austin once more as they carry you into their latest happening adventure! Yeah baby, yeah!

showing in theaters on August 28, 2002.

All in the Game

By Joy Rojas

RAUL TEEHANKEE



His Winning Season

At barely 5'7", Ryan Gregorio seemed to have no place on a basketball court. "I was a mediocre player," shrugs the guy who was a member of the University of the Philippines' high school and college basketball teams. "I was not physically gifted. It was just impossible for me to make a difference."

But it was might, not height, and fierce love for basketball, that would eventually make him stand out in the Philippines' most popular sport. Tapped at 22 by UP coach Eric Altamirano to act as assistant coach for his alma mater, Gregorio eventually joined Altamirano in the big league when the latter was drafted to coach the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs.

"I've been a fighter all my life," declares Gregorio who is also head coach for the UP Maroons. "Everybody always told me that I couldn't play basketball because I was too small, or that I couldn't coach because I don't know the game. But my mind is strong. When people say things like that, I'm always thinking, 'I'm going to prove you wrong.'"

And prove them wrong he did.

With Altamirano away to coach the national team for the forthcoming Asian Games, and three of his best players on loan for the same event, Gregorio suddenly found himself the man at the helm of what he admits "is not the strongest team we've ever had."

Tasked to call the shots at last May's Samsung PBA Governors Cup, the interim coach nevertheless steered Purefoods from a dismal 0-2 deficit to successive wins in Games 3,4 and 5, and a convincing victory against legendary coach Tim Cone and the Alaska Aces in Game 7. Talk about rewriting history! In addition to ending a dry spell for Purefoods (who hasn't won a Game 7 in its last three tries, and a championship since 1997), Gregorio is the first coach in 20 years to lead a team from a two-games-to-none status. He's also the first interim coach to win a PBA title, and, having turned 30 last April 7, the third youngest coach (after Tommy Manotoc and Chot Reyes, both 29) to snag a championship.

Sportswriters may be busy scribbling Gregorio's name in their books, but the interim coach wants it on record that "the victory is a tribute to how good a coach Eric is. He lay the groundwork. I was just there to implement everything that he instilled."

Perhaps, but Gregorio does have a coaching style of his own. Choosing to hone a player's mind, the UP film major presents the team with videos of their past games to review what they did right and where they can improve. "It's easier if they see what I'm trying to tell them," he explains. "And they can't complain because videos don't lie."

Hardly the picture of the gruff, cursing drill sergeant, the boyish Gregorio is a positive reinforcer who "prefers seeing the goodness in a player's game and dwelling on that." And because he's currently heading a team that includes four-time MVP Alvin Patrimonio and Ronnie Magsanoc, his former coach at UP, Gregorio always comes prepared, even in practice. By game time, the interim coach doesn't just dispense strategies, he listens to them through seasoned players like Patrimonio and Magsanoc, and his assistant coach, La Salle cager Mon Jose. "When all the others call themselves a team, we call ourselves a family," he smiles. "That's our secret."

Indeed, it was basketball's collective effort that drew Gregorio, the fourth of five kids and the youngest of three sons, into the sport. Weaned on basketball by his dad (who used to take him and his brothers to the Araneta Coliseum to watch the Crispa-Toyota games), he says "I like the team concept. Whether in sports or in work, things are better achieved when they're done with others."

Of course, juggling coaching responsibilities with his other job as a basketball commentator for the Philippine Basketball League and Philippine Basketball Association prompts Gregorio to seek the occasional and much-needed time out. When he isn't immersed in the sport, the family man goes on weekend trips with his college sweetheart and wife Jin and their one-year-old daughter Ysabelle. He swims for exercise and relaxes his mind with hours of Playstation. "*Kaya lang*," he says with a chuckle, "basketball *pa rin*! (except that the game's still basketball!)"

Having experienced the sport from both sides of the court, Gregorio muses that if he had a choice, he'd rather be a player "because you just think about yourself. But he concedes, "My philosophy is that everything happens for a reason. And because of what we have achieved in the first conference, maybe coaching is the right job for me."

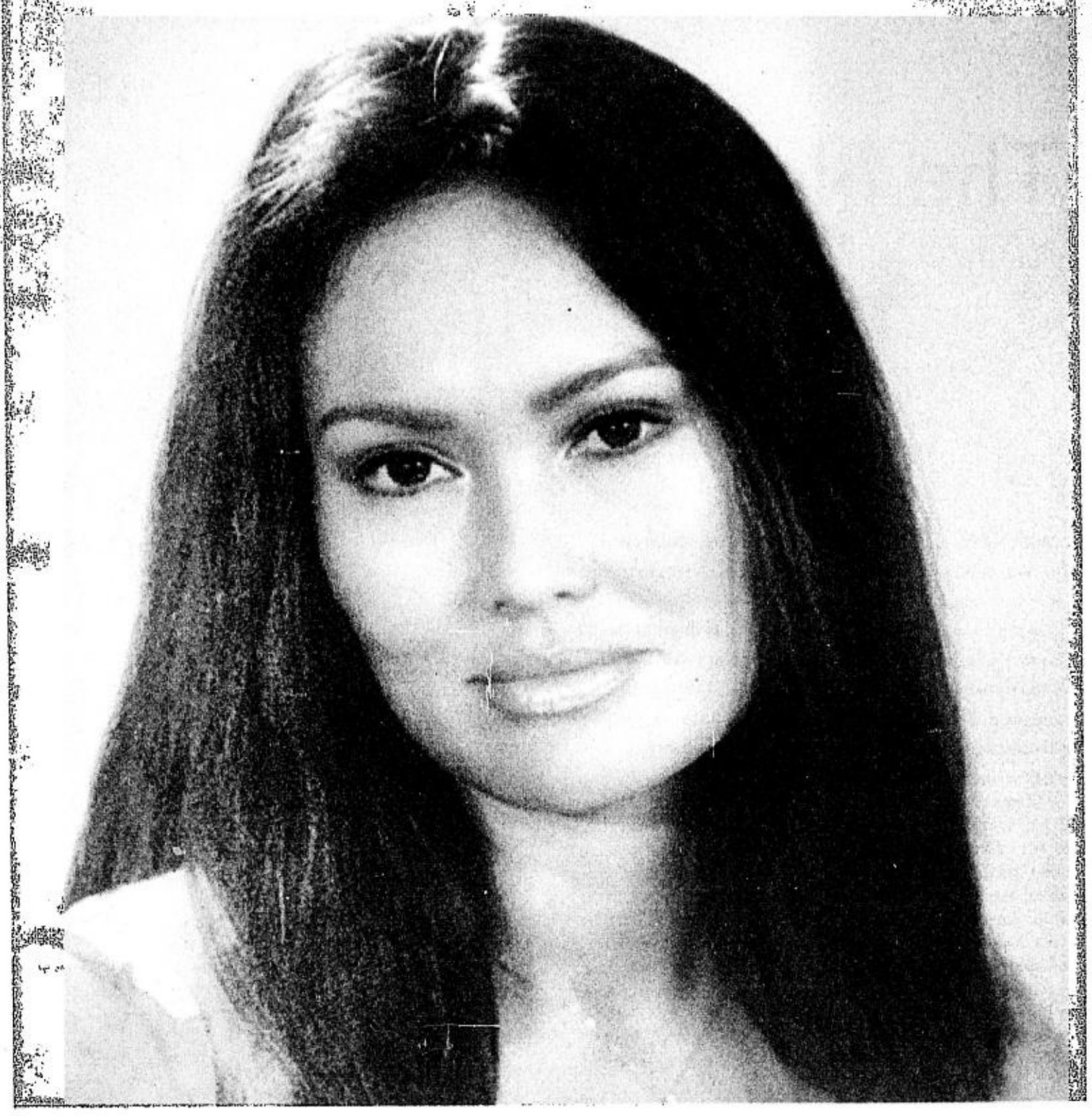
The most interesting people and personalities leave their mark in the pages of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine

INQUIRER

The Reel Life
By Janet Susan R. Nepales

Pinay at Heart

She can't speak Tagalog, but shapely Hollywood actress Tia Carrere loves adobo and her lola, and regards her Filipino ancestry with pride



ORLANDO, Florida—"I love *adobo*!" exclaims the tall, tanned and shapely Hollywood actress Tia Carrere.

Wearing a cleavage-revealing red tube dress, the 35-year-old Honolulu-born Tia is playful and cheerful this Sunday morning at the Walt Disney Feature Animation Building in this city known for its theme parks.

Born Althea Rae Duhinio Janairo to Filipino parents, Tia laments that she doesn't speak Tagalog. But she's proud of her Filipino ancestry and became prouder of it when she paid a visit to the Philippines in 1987. "It is so beautiful," she gushes. "I saw Pagsanjan Falls and enjoyed the night life in Manila," she tells us.

In "Lilo & Stitch," Disney's latest animation blockbuster, Tia is the voice of Nani, the sister/surrogate mother of Lilo, the spunky principal character. In this funny, irreverent movie, Lilo (pronounced Lee-lo) meets and adopts an alien who passes himself off as a dog, Stitch, who learns about "ohana" or the principle of family from Lilo and Nani.

In one scene, Tia sings her 77-year-old *lola*'s song, "Aloha O'e" which the actress describes as "one of my favorite Hawaiian songs, a really beautiful melody that says goodbye in a very accepting way."

"Lilo & Stitch" writer-directors Chris Sanders and Dean DeBlois needed something to underscore an emotional scene between orphan siblings Nani and Lilo (voiced by Daveigh Chase). Nani struggles to raise Lilo by herself even as a Social Security worker constantly tries to take Lilo away. Tia says, "When I suggested a Hawaiian lullaby to rock Lilo to sleep, Chris and Dean asked me if I knew any song. So I sang a little bit of this song that my grandma used to sing to me and they loved it. When they requested that I sing the whole song, I said, 'Wait a minute! Wait a minute! Let me call my grandma for the rest of the lyrics.' So I called my grandma for the lyrics."

According to Tia, the song is actually a traditional Hawaiian song that was written by Queen Liliuokalani, the last Hawaiian monarch. A "Lilo & Stitch" special in a major US TV network showed Tia and her *lola* singing the song together. "Isn't that cool? Grandma singing on TV!" Tia enthuses.

"Singing is my first love," declares Tia. "I've always dreamt of becoming a singer, not an actress."

Tia started taking voice lessons when she was 11 and recently performed in two benefit concerts with Peter Gabriel in Toronto. She recorded her own CD, "Dreams," under Warner Bros. Records which turned platinum in the Philippines. Her second CD is in the works.

"She's b-e-r-r-i ta-len-ted!" Jason Scott Lee, sitting beside Tia, describes his fellow Hawaiian and "Lilo & Stitch" co-star. Asked how he learned the accent of a Filipino "old-timer" in Hawaii, Lee discloses, "Some of the best farmers in Hawaii are Filipinos. I work with them a lot since I have a farm in Hawaii. I'm with Filipinos all the time."

Tia teases Jason, who is the voice of David Kawena, the fire-eating boyfriend of her character, Nani. "He's such a farm boy he doesn't want to leave his farm to do a movie!' She explains that Jason enjoys working in his farm so much that he was initially reluctant to do "Lilo & Stitch."

Aside from acting on screen and television, Tia also does commercials and modeling stints. She has worked with Hollywood greats Arnold Schwarzenegger ("True Lies"), Sean Connery ("Rising Sun") and Mike Myers ("Wayne's World"). She has appeared as well on the TV hit series "General Hospital" (which she chose over a regular role on "Baywatch") and "The A-Team." She is currently starring in the hit syndicated series, "Relic Hunter," where she portrays Sydney Fox, a globe-trotting unorthodox martial arts expert/history professor known for her knowledge of ancient civilizations.

So how active is Tia in pushing for more roles for minority actors in Hollywood?

"I actually think of myself as the majority," Tia replies with a laugh.

Turning serious, she states, "I know what you mean. I was the first regular Asian actress on daytime television. Each little thing that we do adds up to more people of our ethnicity getting into the business. We show that it is financially feasible to back up a project that's headed by someone who looks like me. So with each success that we make in the business, we help everybody else."

Tia is one of those rare Asian American actresses who, according to her former agent, "transcends the barriers of ethnic stereotyping because she doesn't look at herself as an ethnic. She doesn't accept those close-minded industry boundaries."

Tia is happy that Nani, the character for whom she voices over, is not, in her own words, the typical Disney "Barbie doll character who has a 36-26-36 figure." "She's got hips!" the 5'8" tall actress points out. "I'm glad she was really built strong," she adds.

So how does she maintain her shapely figure?

Tia replies, "I work out then I eat a lot, especially *adobo*, and then work out again." She continues, "My other favorite meal is buffet. That's why you see lots of Hawaiian people in Las Vegas." Then she blurts out aloud, "$7.99 only...all you can eat prime ribs!"

Can she relate to the love-hate relationship between Lilo and Nani as sisters?

"Oh yes, especially the screaming matches," confesses Tia with a laugh. She has a younger sister, Alesaundra. She became known as Tia when her younger sister couldn't pronounce her real name, Althea, when they were kids.

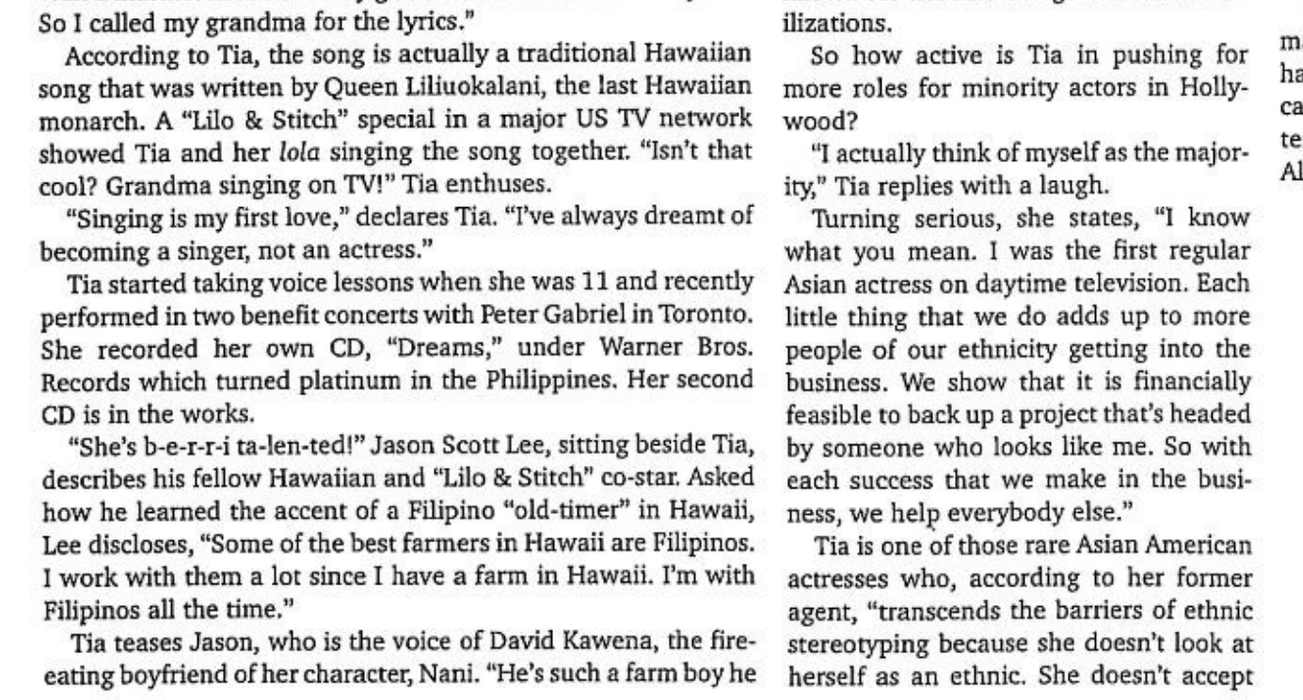
Carrere, on the other hand, was reportedly picked as a tribute to actress Barbara Carrera.

So how does it feel to be in a Disney movie?

"It is a dream come true for me," she admits. "I have always wanted to be in a Disney movie. When they were filming 'Mulan,' I was upset that I wasn't able to join the cast. That film had the same casting director as 'Lilo & Stitch' and apparently she tried to contact me too but I was in Slovakia doing a film. But now it turns out to be a blessing in disguise since 'Lilo & Stitch' is based in Hawaii and I was born in Hawaii. It's a better alternative for me than doing a movie based in China.

"Plus, of course," she volunteers, "I will be part of a movie that will be seen by my children and my children's children. I am a figurine in a Happy Meal pack. I have a game in a Playstation. I am a character in the theme park. I am a doll in the store. I am in a computer game."

And, as far as other Asian actors are concerned, a role model as well who has started breaking down the color barrier in tinseltown.



Tia voices older sister Nani (left) in "Lilo & Stitch"

Poetry

Tennessee Waltz

Gentle seduction
of notes and lyrics
brings me
ten years closer
to an apartment in Boni Avenue
where one can hear the jeepneys sputter
at twelve-past midnight,
where vendors shout their mantra
"mais,"
and a locker filled with robots and red fire-engines
were life's treasures.
Where every afternoon
Awakes
To a roomful of cake cologne
on mother's batik duster,
and dreams of next-door playmates
bathed in sleepy sunlight
tickled noses out of siesta.

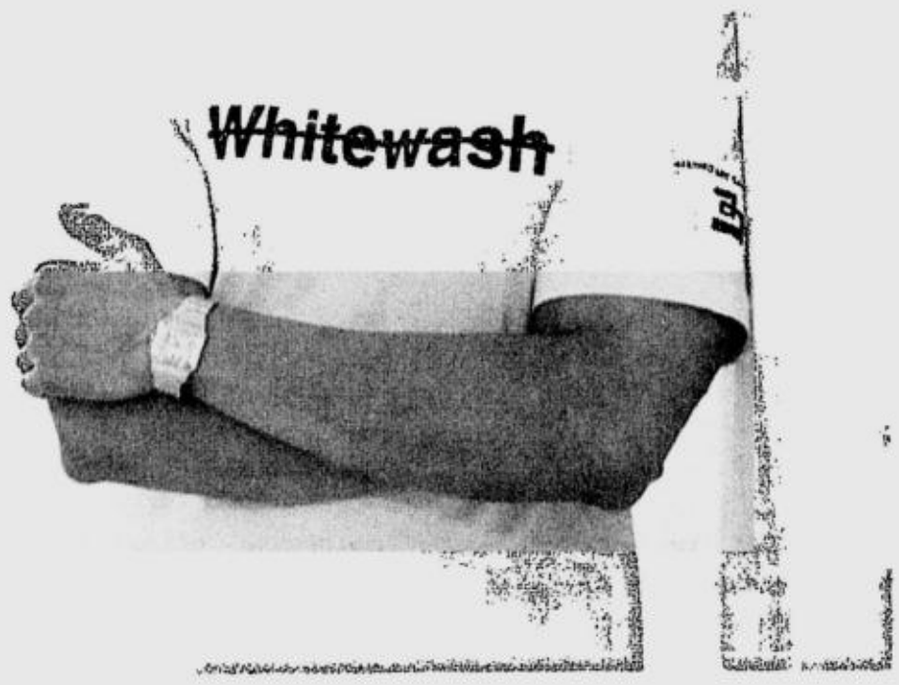
Shelley Jo Rojas Saracin

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Artwatch
By Natalia F. Diaz

The New Vanguard

MIKE ALQUINTO



SOMETHING is abuzz at the Ateneo Art Gallery these days. The number of visitors eager to get inside is enough to pique the curiosity of passersby. Once inside the gallery, one is greeted by walls awash in white and displaying the works of contemporary Filipino maestros alongside those of young and upcoming modern artists. "This looks like the MOMA!" a student is overheard expressing in awe. The buzz is about "Whitewash," the latest exhibit in what may be the country's first and only modern art museum.

The new director and curator of the Ateneo Art Gallery is 30-year-old Richie Lerma who, despite his youth, is intent on proving that art can be made fresh, dynamic and accessible even to jaded students

Amidst such palpable liveliness stands young looker Ramon "Richie" Lerma, the director and curator of the acclaimed Ateneo Art Gallery. Richie is the new vanguard of the museum, having taken the reins from renowned art professor Emmanuel Torres, who retired in March after being the gallery's curator for over 40 years. It is indeed a tough act to follow; Torres is considered a pioneer in museum practice, chiefly responsible for building Ateneo's prized collection for four decades and for pioneering an appreciation of modern art in the Philippines. Richie readily acknowledges his respect and fondness for his old mentor: "I have no plans of stepping into Professor Torres' shoes, that's impossible—I intend to wear my own!"

Exuding youthful energy and a positive attitude and clad in a T-shirt, jeans and rubber shoes, Richie could easily be mistaken for another student at the university. But he is certainly no inexperienced juvenile when it comes to culture and the arts, having been exposed to Roman and Greek History and Latin through his high school days at Southridge in Alabang, and majoring in Humanities at the Ateneo de Manila University. After college, Richie first worked as a copywriter for an advertising agency, where he wrote TV, print and radio ads for key accounts. Though he acknowledges that his two years in advertising were satisfying, he admits that he was looking for a more creative outlet. "In terms of expressing that creative side of myself, I felt I was holding back a bit," he says of his advertising days. He then learned of a particular art school in Italy, and made the pivotal decision to leave the advertising world and pursue art studies in Florence.

Richie excitedly looks back on his days at the Instituto d'Arte di Firenze and the University of Florence, where he specialized in Renaissance Court Art. "It was amazing!" he says, referring to his classes held in Michaelangelo's studio.

Upon his return to Manila, Richie felt blessed with a series of excellent opportunities thrown his way. He engaged in volunteer work for the Metropolitan Museum and worked with the cultural section of the Italian Embassy. He likewise wrote art reviews for the Philippine Daily Inquirer, largely through the encouragement of Professor Torres and former Lifestyle editor Thelma San Juan. Such activities, as well as his established ties with Professor Torres, paved the way to his current position at the helm of the Ateneo Art Gallery. "A lot of it was serendipity. In my case, everything sort of landed on my lap. Now I can't see any other profession that gives me this much satisfaction. It's a blessing to be able to do something that you really like," he says.

Richie has done a lot in professionalizing the Gallery in terms of its operations and exhibition programs. Working with a skeleton crew of three people, he has come up with inventive shows accompanied by scholarly catalogues. A recent accomplishment was a retrospective on Ang Kiukok, titled "Ang Kiukok at Ang Ateneo" in honor of the National Artist. Before the close of this year, the public may look forward to a multi-sited exhibit, "Zero In", a collaboration between the Ateneo Art Gallery, Ayala Museum and the Lopez Museum, which will show aspects of each private collection.

Richie is particularly proud of the ongoing "Whitewash" exhibit that continues to attract between 200 to 300 visitors each day, a remarkable feat in the gallery's history. Teaming up with guest curator Yeyey Cruz of the Lopez Museum, Richie confronted the concept of white not merely as an absence or plenitude of color, but rather as a reflection of erasure, emptiness, destruction and effluence. The theme is significant in that it was introduced at a time of transition for the gallery, which is making great efforts to introduce new media to a larger audience. A prime example of this is the presentation of "Line Drawing" by Ronald Anading, a work in video format, a medium largely unexplored in the Philippine art scene.

Richie is quick to dispel any notion of downplaying his predecessor's heritage. "We are not erasing Professor Torres' legacy, we are in fact building on it. While we respect the past and certainly look back on it, we also look towards being part of the future of this country," he says. "You do that by showing a very young and dynamic energy. That's reflected by the verve which we're trying to have here in the museum."

Perhaps it is Richie's youthfulness and energetic nature that allows him to relate well to the students of the university. "Stasis does not sit well with me particularly because my primary audience—the students of the Ateneo—get jaded very easily. There are some people who have been out there; they've seen museums abroad and know what's going on. So to do anything less would be unfair." The impressive daily attendance of "Whitewash" may in fact be attributed to Richie's innovative tactic in promoting the exhibition. Tying up with the fashion-

To page 7

End Page
By Jonathan Best

Cataloguing Visual History

A Frenchman and longtime local resident has written a comprehensive catalogue of a lesser known branch of Philippine photography: stereoview cards that show life in the country in the 1890s and early 1900s when the Philippines was very much in the news in the United States

PRIOR to the 1960s, the value of vintage black and white and sepia-toned photographs as historical and cultural documentation was often overlooked. It was the centennial of the American Civil War in the 1960s, the first major war to be photographically documented, which sparked a tremendous interest in 19th century American photographs and in photographic history in general. This surge of interest in historical photographs spread worldwide and has continued unabated to the present. It reached the Philippines in the early 1990s as the country prepared for the centennial of the Philippine Revolution of 1896 and the Philippine-American War of 1899.

Stereoview of Philippine-American War casualties, 1899

Thousands of Philippine photographs have now been retrieved from dusty attics in America, dog-eared European albums and local archives and reproduced in countless coffee table books, newspaper and magazine articles. Unfortunately very little archival documentation of Philippine photograph collections has been done.

Recently, Christian Perez, a Frenchman and long-time resident of Manila, took the time and sat down to write a comprehensive catalogue of one of the lesser known but nonetheless extremely important branches of Philippine photography: stereoview cards. After several years of painstaking research he has published, an impressive new book titled, "Catalogue of Philippine Stereoviews."

Perez is married to a Filipina and has been living in Manila for the past 25 years and is with the Asian Development Bank. Asked why he collects and now catalogues Philippine stereoviews, he was quick to reply, "Because I love the Philippines." He has been collecting coins, bank notes, maps, old books and vintage photographs since he was a boy in France and takes delight in researching and documenting his collection. He has over 600 Philippine stereoviews in his personal collection and has borrowed from numerous institutional and private collections to complete more than 1,400 catalogue entries.

Stereoview cards were developed quite soon after the invention of photography in Paris in 1839. The first photographs, named daguerreotypes after their inventor Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre, were produced on small silver plates which were treated with a light sensitive emulsion, placed inside a "camera" and exposed for several minutes. These one-of-a-kind images became an overnight sensation primarily as portraits and millions were produced in Europe, America and Asia. Inventors soon realized that by using two cameras set apart at approximately the same distance as human eyes, they could create twin images, which would appear three dimensional when viewed through a special viewer. These were the first daguerreotype stereoviews, which remained rare novelty items until photographic paper prints started to be mass produced in the late 1840s and 1850s. This made it possible to sell inexpensive stereoviews on cardboard mounts.

Christian Perez points out in the introduction to his catalogue that very few stereoview cards were produced showing Philippine scenes prior to 1898. There are five early ethnographic images of Tinguians illustrated in his book, which were published in France in the 1860s. There are also seven views of earthquake damage in Manila circa 1863. Only a handful of early stereo images of the Philippines are known to exist. However, when the Americans arrived in 1898 they brought with them the craze for stereoviews, which was sweeping the United States. Picture postcards had also just become popular at this time, adding to the demand for photographs.

In his catalogue, Perez lists 1,400 images dating up to about 1930 and speculates that there were probably some 2,000 different stereoview cards published in all. Some were issued individually and some in educational sets designed to tell the viewer about life in the Philippines or the events of the Philippine-American War. The height of Philippine stereo production took place between 1898 and 1908 when the Philippines was very much in the news in the United States.

Almost all of the cards listed in Perez's catalogue were printed in the Unites States during this time. It does not appear that a market for locally printed stereoview cards ever developed here, possibly due to the cost of the special viewers and the overwhelming competition from American manufacturers. The novelty of three dimensional stereoviews rapidly declined in the 1930s as movies and illustrated newsmagazines became more popular.

Creating a catalogue of photographic images is a very difficult challenge and Perez has chosen to group the cards by their manufacturers. He has utilized some of the original stock numbers and added his own when necessary. Most of the commercially produced cards were captioned and he has reproduced these alongside the catalogue numbers. Some of the captions produced by the Americans were highly political in nature, patronizing and racist. They comprise an interesting historical document by themselves. Many of the more interesting cards are reproduced in a reduced size; the originals were usually a uniform 3 1/2 x 7 inches. Several of the finest cards are reproduced in their original size. The printing and layout of this catalogue is not intended to compete with glossy coffee table books. Overall, the sepia-toned and color images are clear, the sequence of cataloguing easy to follow and the text informative.

The "Catalogue of Philippine Stereoviews" will be of great use to collectors who want a handy reference book to guide them as they acquire new images. In the past, it has taken years to become familiar with the different manufacturers and images available in private and public collections and offered by antique dealers. Perez's catalogue will also be a useful resource for historians studying the Philippine-American War and early twentieth century Philippine history. A thoughtful foreword by Philippine historian and antique collector Ramon Villegas tackles some of the fundamental political and historical issues these images from the Philippine colonial past evoke.

As Perez points out, the first edition of a catalogue such as this is inevitably a work in progress. He has carefully left space for further additions as new cards are found and more information about them become available. Hopefully he will add a bibliography in the future, which would be of great use to students of Philippine history and photography. Perez and his staff of friends and family should be highly commended for making the effort to produce this valuable new reference book at a time when so many national cultural institutions are cutting back on their publishing and research budgets.

The "Catalogue of Philippine Stereoviews" is available in specialty antique stores or through the project's web page: http://myweb.i-next.net/~cperez/catalogue.htm

Art

Recent Works: Image-Memory-Journey, an exhibit that depicts personal memories, subtle recallings of home and country by Korean artist In Kwan Park opens Aug. 15 and runs until Aug. 24 at the Liongoren Gallery, 111 New York cor. Stanford Sts., Cubao, QC. For details, call 912-4640.

Bakat ng Limbag Sining, a collection of 52 fine prints by National Artists, contemporary works by members of the Philippine Association of Printmakers and noted Filipino artists, until Aug. 30 at the Alliance Francaise Totalfinaelf Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City.

"Cotton Balls" by Aldrie Acosta, on exhibit at Gallery Genesis

Gallery Genesis announces the best five watercolor artists in the Annual Invitational Watercolor competition—Araceli Limcaco Dans, Aldrie Acosta, Fred Ramirez, Noli Principe Manalang and Jonahmar Salvosa. The runners-up are Caloy Gabuco, Margarita Lim, Joven Ignacio, Yeye Calderon and Jess Gellada. Araceli Dans was elevated to the Gallery Genesis Kulay sa Tubig Hall of Fame having won three times in the competition. All participating entries are on exhibit at the Art Center, SM Megamall A until Aug. 13.

Music

Monster Radio RX 93.1 celebrates its anniversary this month with **The RX Concert Series at the Mall** featuring Parokya ni Edgar on Aug. 17 at SM Centerpoint. The RX Band Breakout 2002, an annual artist hunt, will also be launched. Bands have until Aug. 17 to submit their demo material of at least two songs, including one original and one cover performance.

The **MCO Arts Festival 2002** opens with a concert by the University of the East Chorale on Aug. 17, 7 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCIBank Tower 1, Makati Avenue cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Makati City. The repertoire will include a mix of classical, sacred, OPM, Filipino and English folk songs and pop music. For tickets, call 818-1403 or 813-3849.

Sharon Cuneta celebrates her silver anniversary in the entertainment industry with a grand celebration billed as **The Mega Event**, a two-night concert on Aug. 16 and 17 at the Araneta Coliseum. Tickets available at all SM Ticketnet outlets or call Artist House at 817-4660 or 815-1953.

Cinema

Monster Radio RX 93.1 will hold the premiere of the following movies: "Austin Powers in Goldmember" starring Mike Myers (Aug. 16, Greenbelt 3), "The Bourne Identity" starring Matt Damon (Aug. 20, SM Megamall), and "Signs" starring Mel Gibson (Aug. 26, SM Megamall). Tune in to RX 93.1 for free invites.

Onstage

Dulaang UP's ***Hibik at Himagsik nina Victoria Lactaw*** will be restaged on Aug. 13-24 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2/F Palma Hall, UP Diliman. "Hibik at Himagsik" is a Bienvenido Lumbera zarzuela about nine women revolutionaries who composed "Hibik Namin," a poem that exposed the atrocities committed by American soldiers against Filipinas during the Philippine-American war. For details, call 926-1349 or 920-5301 loc. 6441.

Dulaang UP stages *"Hibik at Himagsik nina Victoria Lactaw"*

Atbp

The **Clean Body Clean Mind Health and Fitness Center** will launch its new training facility at 615 Boni Ave. cor. Sikap St., Mandaluyong City on Aug. 17. The Center will offer Tai Chi, Stretching for Stress Relief and Relaxation, Reiki Meditations and Classes among other fitness and wellness programs. Arnis Rapado style, Yaw Yan Kick Boxing, Practical Self Defense and Safety Awareness seminars are among the self-defense and martial arts programs. For inquiries, call 578-6986.

Join the hands-on **workshop on Power Tools** (welding machine, grinder, drill, jigsaw and angle driver) on Aug. 19-20 at the Sinag Arts Studio, 664 San Ignacio St., Mandaluyong City. For details, call 531-3491.

Executive Editors Inc. is offering a **seminar on Copy Editing** on Aug. 15-16 and hands-on corporate photography workshop on Aug. 29-30. For details, call 887-3797 or 98.

The Center for Health and Creative Arts will offer a seminar-workshop on **The Whole Brain Approach to Learning and Creativity** on Aug. 17 at the Human Resources Center, 2/F Hoeffner Building, Ateneo de Manila University. For reservations, call 434-5381.

The Kadayawan sa Davao, an annual festival celebrating Davao's bountiful harvest of flowers and fruits, is the subject of an **on-the-spot photo contest** on Aug. 23-24 organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation. The contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers. Interested participants from Metro Manila and nearby provinces can coordinate with the FPPF. They can join a group for a round-trip airfare, accommodation, meal, one roll of film and contact print. For details, call 843-5341 and 813-7420.

The third **Asia-Pacific Family Congress** will be held on Aug. 16-17 at the Philippine International Convention Center, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. The theme is "My Family... Who's Responsible?" Sub topics include challenges and response for the contemporary family, images and struggles of spouses and parents, and family building in the contemporary society. For registration, call 975-0714 or 890-6707.

Edsa Shangri-La, Manila holds its first one-stop shop **Corporate Events Fair** on Aug. 13 at the Tower Wing Lower Lobby. The whole day interactive affair will include a mini fashion show on corporate uniforms and power dressing, a panel discussion on corporate imaging, E-management, stress and time management. The fair will feature entertainment using the most modern techniques in special events staging such as state-of-the-art tools, audio-visual equipment providers and production houses. Admission is free.

Dero Pedero presents **Make Your Impossible Dreams Come True**, an inspiring and entertaining success seminar that reveals life enhancing secrets, principles and techniques vital in helping you achieve your dreams. Sessions are held at The Roof Deck, Buendia Towers, 105 Gil Puyat Ave. between Bautista St. and the Buendia-Taft LRT station. E-mail DeroSeminar@yahoo.com and text or call Deena at 0920-4053233 for schedules and details.

Powerbooks recently opened another branch at the second floor of Tower Records in Glorietta 3. For customers who can't find a particular title, the Powerbooks special order service will be available in the new branch. Other services are book reservation, free delivery, gift certificates, institutional accounts, bridal and birthday registry, and the Powercard discount card and loyalty program. For inquiries, call 844-4455 or log on to www.powerbooks.com.ph.

The Young Professionals' Network of Earth-Friendly Action (YPNET), a newly organized group of young, techno-savvy environmentalists, recently launched its pilot advocacy campaign, ***Kapote at Kamera para sa Kanlaon***. The fundraising and awareness-building project will support the logistical needs of a volunteer group in Mt. Kanlaon in Negros. Mary Anne Velas, YPNET president, enjoined the public to help save Mt. Kanlaon by donating heavy-duty raincoats and cameras or their equivalent in cash. These shall in turn be handed over to the members of the Kanlaon Green Brigade, selfless and committed guardians of the forests of Mt. Kanlaon during the formal launching in December. For details, call (0917)8900042 or write to ypnet_phils@yahoo.com.

Quicksilver and Surfworld offer discounts of 20 to 50 percent on all products as well as a Buy One, Take One Promo on all Globe/Gallaz shoes and Black Flys eyewear. Promo period until Oct. 31. Quicksilver Boardriders Club is located at Level R2, Powerplant Mall and Surfworld shops are located at the 3/L, SM Megamall B, 2/L Glorietta 4 and 2/L Festival Mall, Filinvest.

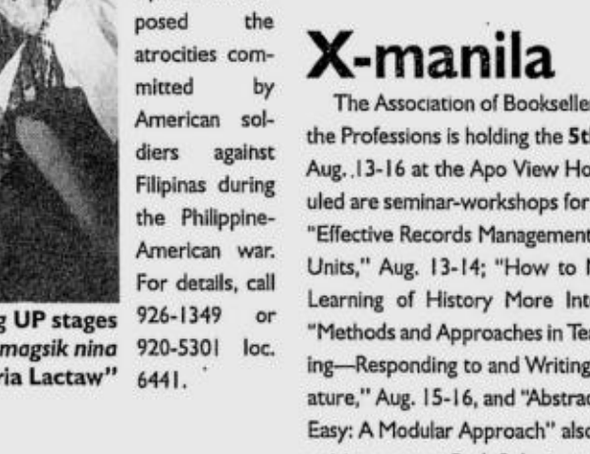
X-manila

The Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions is holding the **5th Davao Book Fair** on Aug. 13-16 at the Apo View Hotel, Davao City. Scheduled are seminar-workshops for teachers and librarians: "Effective Records Management for Local Government Units," Aug. 13-14; "How to Make the Teaching and Learning of History More Interesting," Aug. 14-15; "Methods and Approaches in Teaching Interactive Reading—Responding to and Writing About Philippine Literature," Aug. 15-16, and "Abstracting and Indexing Made Easy: A Modular Approach" also on Aug. 15-16. For inquiries, contact Beth Solquio at (02) 927-9858 or Edith Ibañez, Davao secretariat at (082) 227-0941.

***Limang Daliri* (Five Fingers)**, JuanCarlo Toledo's solo exhibit of earlier works in watercolor and oil pastel at Hole, Fields Avenue corner Teodoro in Angeles City, simultaneously launched with companion virtual exhibit at www.spreadhead.net. Exhibit runs until Aug. 20.

The Holy Angel University Center for Kapampangan Studies will sponsor a **seminar on Church Heritage** for the clergy of the Archdiocese of San Fernando on Aug. 19, as well as an exhibit "Temporalities: The Material Heritage of the Catholic Church." For inquiries, call Robby Tantingco at (045)888-8691.

Handwoven Wealth, an exhibit of natural fiber textiles like abaca, cotton, piña, silk, raffia and piña shifu at The Sanctuary Gallery at Maryknoll, Camp Sloco, Baguio City until Aug. 28. For details, call (074) 442-4602.



"Image-Memory Journey XX" by In Kwan Park, on exhibit at Liongoren Gallery

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules.

By Jess Abrera

Alok-Bisita

'Illusione' Returns

Bahaghari Productions brings back a bigger and brighter "Illusione" in "Illusione... Encore!" at the newly opened Star Theater (within Star City) at the CCP Complex. "Illusione" captivated audiences during its initial run at Onstage Greenbelt with its dazzling display of lights and costumes in scintillating production numbers that showcased some of the finest impersonators of the land. New acts and characters will be added to "Illusione... Encore!" like Barbra Streisand, Marilyn Monroe, Liza Minnelli, Celine Dion, Chaka Khan and many more, plus a drop-dead gorgeous Zsa Zsa Padilla with matching Comedy King to boot. The show will run at the Star Theater starting Aug. 16 at 8 p.m. Other show dates are Aug. 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and Sept. 1. It will also have performances in Pampanga on Sept. 6 and 7. Interested block-buyers may call Bahaghari Productions at 687-0990 ot 687-1281. For ticket reservations, call Ticketworld at 891-5610.

More impersonation magic at the Star Theater

...from page 6

able clothing and lifestyle company Human, Richie got hold of 500 white T-shirts emblazoned with the exhibit's logo. He then persuaded the football and basketball teams of the school to wear the shirts around the campus. The strategy worked. Soon, there was a great demand for the t-shirts and there were even days when the university's quadrangle was drenched in white. More importantly, it sparked the interest of students on the "Whitewash" exhibit at the gallery. "Students actually thought it was cool to come to an art gallery! Before, art was always seen as something in the periphery, very esoteric and specialized, but now it has become accessible," he declares. "And the best part about it is that they come here without being required to, just out of sheer interest!"

Yet being director of a museum at the young age of 30 does have its challenges, sometimes humorous recounts Richie. In a museum conference last year at Salzburg, Austria, Richie was invited as one of 60 future museum leaders from around the world. Seated among much older directors of such prestigious museums as the Getty and Tate during a dinner, Richie recounts how one of them jocularly said, "Pass the vegetables to that little boy over there!"

Nevertheless, Richie remains undaunted and far from intimidated. "In fact, I think it works the other way around! I think it's a challenge for people of the older generation to see younger curators coming into the picture. They have to meet the standards the younger people are setting in terms of audience development and the quality of the exhibitions," he explains. "And I think it's exciting to have this effect. To create certain ripples in the art scene."

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Computer Fundamentals/Basic Programming
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New PNP revamp looms; 12 top officers affected

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Why don't cops get tough on this solon?

By G. Lacuarta

IF THE President wants a really dramatic tough-on-crime photo opportunity, the running priest has a suggestion: Why not

WHY/A19

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Monday, August 12, 2002 ★ 64 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 245 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

How does GMA see Reds?

FURIOUS miners demanding government action on a recent toxic smoke incident in the Diwalwal gold-rush area in Monkayo, Compostela Valley, hit back at a Simba armored personnel carrier that rammed through their barricade and ran over the coffin of a dead miner on Tagmanok Bridge in Mawab town. EDGAR ARO

Satur wants to know but Malacañang still at a loss

By Christine Avendaño, Gerald Lacuarta and Carlito Pablo

DOES the government also now consider the Communist Party of the Philippines a terrorist group?

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo yesterday asked the government to clarify its position in view of the classification by the United States of the CPP, along with its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), as a foreign terrorist organization.

"The government says it will continue to negotiate with the NDF (National Democratic Front, a group that includes the CPP) but at the same time it has a policy of no negotiations with terrorists," Ocampo said in a phone interview. "So it has to clarify its position on this matter. Which is which?"

But even Malacañang is at a loss as to how to classify the CPP and NPA even if they have been tagged as terrorist organizations by the country's chief military ally.

"They are not criminals because . . . it (CPP) is not illegal at this time as we have repealed the anti-subversion law," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"We can't say they're revolutionaries because there is no actual revolution," Bunye said.

He noted that the Philippines had no law on anti-terrorism "so we don't have a clear definition of what a terrorist organization is."

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said he decided to include the CPP-NPA in the list of foreign terrorist organizations "in consultation with the attorney general and the secretary of the treasury after an exhaustive review of this group's violent activities."

In a decision published in a US government gazette on Friday, Powell called on all governments to "isolate these terrorist organizations, choke off

HOW/A20

DENR takes over gold mountain amid rising tension

By Ayan C. Mellejor
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Gerald G. Lacuarta

DAVAO CITY—The government took over the Diwalwal gold-rush area in Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley, as Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez finally ordered a stop in mining operations following a rash of violent incidents and protests by small-scale miners.

Alvarez signed the order yesterday before miners and members of the media at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office here. The order takes effect after details of the closure are laid down.

Before arriving here, Alvarez was briefed on the Diwalwal peace and order situation by the Philippine National Police chief, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., at the Manila Hotel in Manila.

"Lives are being lost and the credibility of government to look after the welfare of the small people is being eroded," the PNP report said.

"To hinge the solution of the Diwalwal conflict on legalities will be a long, tedious process which may just see the periodic repeat of the same violent scenarios as what had happened so far," it said.

On Aug. 10, some 2,500 small-scale miners barricaded the Tagmanok Bridge in Mawab, Compostela Valley, demanding the investigation of a fumigation incident in Mt. Diwata allegedly coming from the "Mayor Jose Brillantes Victory Tunnel" where a miner died of suffocation.

The protest was dispersed when an Army armored personnel carrier rammed its way into the barricade and ran over the coffin of the dead miner, one Roberto Zamora.

The protesters also condemned the shooting incidents in the past few weeks by gunmen allegedly under the direction of Monkayo Mayor Jose

DENR/A18

Pagcor revamp, new faces show hand of politicians

By John Nery and TJ Burgonio

(Last of three parts)

WHEN Efraim Genuino took over the country's gaming monopoly in January 2001, he set in motion a restructuring of the entire firm that threatens to have political consequences.

The creation of at least eight new departments at the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. has been described by Pagcor management as a "logical" next step for a company with international ambitions.

But documents obtained by the INQUIRER, and interviews with several former and current Pagcor employees, tend to show that the reorganization is political in design.

Pagcor, with revenues of over P16 billion a year, has been reorganized and staffed with political operatives or by people close to or identified with President Macapagal-Arroyo and the First Gentleman, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Many of the key appointees come from Bigkis Pinoy, the party-list group founded by Genuino and associated with Arroyo, or the Rotary Club of Makati Central (RCMC), also associated with the First Gentleman. Some appointees had worked for the President before, when she was still senator or Vice President.

PAGCOR/A18

RISKY GAMBLE
An I-TEAM Report

Gaming firm says slot machine plan modest, reasonable

By John Nery and Michael Lim Ubac

FALSE claims based on half-truths.

Top officials of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. branded the issues raised by its critics as non-starters, saying the claims were misleading because the use of facts was selective.

In a press statement, Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino said there was "no truth to reports that Pagcor will flood the country with slot machines."

He said "the expansion program Pagcor is presently undertaking in line with its slot machine operations (was) a modest and reasonable one."

The INQUIRER reported on Saturday that an additional 2,000 slot machines would be installed in at least 11 non-casino-based locations in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao in the next few months.

"It's saddening . . . that (our)

GAMING/A18

All-out war against CPP not justified, logical

By Amando Doronila

AFTER lingering in the shadows since the 1980s, the communist rebellion has been hoisted to the top of the mast as the nation's most serious security problem worthy of an all-out war by the Macapagal administration.

To say that President Macapagal-Arroyo swiveled the guns of the military toward the New People's Army (NPA) after the decimation of the Abu Sayyaf provides only a superficial answer to why the government has shifted its focus.

ANALYSIS

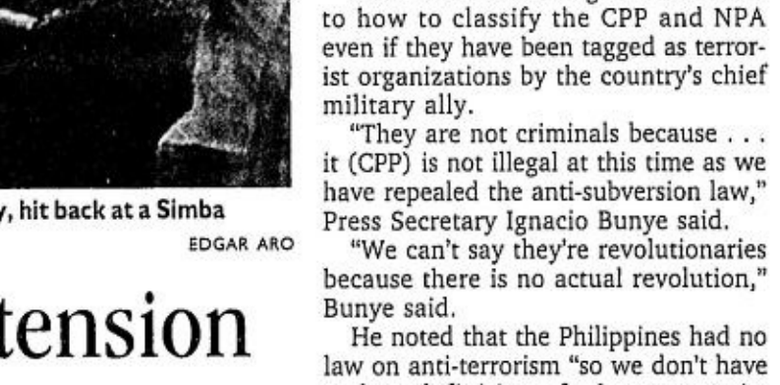
This shift has to be interpreted from the perspective of the new strategic alliance between Manila and Washington in the US-led war on international terrorism, and the administration's need for an enemy to mobilize public opinion behind it in the face of its plummeting popularity.

There is neither justification nor logic in deploying the Armed Forces in an all-out war with the communists.

The first argument against this redeployment is that the military capability of the NPA is down to no more than 11,000 armed members, a third of its armed might at the peak of the NPA rebellion during the Marcos regime.

At present, the NPA is just as strong as the

ALL-OUT/A6



DENNIS SABANGAN

BAYAN Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo (right) and Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes criticize US move branding CPP members as terrorists.

Military expects freeze on NPA funds, support

By Martin P. Marfil, Aquiles Z. Zonio and Julie S. Alipala

THE INCLUSION of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in a US list of terrorist organizations could help freeze its funds and force it to the negotiating table, the military said yesterday.

"If their accounts are frozen and foreign support (to the rebels) is stopped, then they have no choice but to continue with the peace process," Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion said.

Peace talks between the government and the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) were suspended in June last year after the NPA assassinated two legislators.

Once an organization is on the foreign terror group list, it is unlawful for a US citizen to provide it with support or resources, financial help or weap-

MILITARY/A18

Second FRONT PAGE

Another major police revamp looms

By Martin P. Marfil

A MAJOR police revamp to begin later this week will mean new assignments for at least 12 police generals, Philippine National Police officials said yesterday.

One of those to be affected is Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, the former Central Luzon police chief who was among the seven ranking police officials relieved of their posts last month for ostensibly failing to stop illegal gambling.

Berroya has been recommended for transfer to Central Mindanao.

Director Nestorio Gualberto, the chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group who retires in September, will be replaced by Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, the regional police chief of Southern Mindanao.

Matillano and Berroya are both members of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansyang Makabansa, the reform movement within the Armed Forces.

The revamp is also expected to affect the National Capital Region.

Deputy Director Reynaldo Velasco, the NCR regional police chief, said he had yet to see the revamp orders but was told

BERROYA MATILLANO

PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane had said it would be implemented in mid-August.

Among those whose names have been submitted to the Senior Officers Placement and Promotions Board are Chief Supt. Eduardo Gador who is to be transferred to the Ilocos region to replace Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao.

Lomibao is reportedly slated to head the Western Visayas region while Chief Supt. Jos Gutierrez Jr. of the Southern Police District is to be sent to the Cagayan Valley to replace Chief Supt. Dominador Resos, who was earlier appointed head of the logistics directorate.

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, chief of the Northern Police District, has been recommended for transfer to the Central Visayas region to replace Director Avelino Razon Jr.

For Southern Tagalog, a source said the choice is between Chief Supt. Quirino de la Torre, head of the police computer service, and Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Bicol regional commander.

Chief Supt. Romulo Sales, deputy regional chief for NCR operations, has been recommended to replace the head of the intelligence group, Chief Supt. Robert Delfin.

Other sources said that Director Jose Lalisan, who now heads planning, will probably be named chief of personnel to replace Director Virtus Gil who might be assigned to replace Deputy Director Rex Piad as chief of the PNP directorial staff. Piad is retiring next month.

A source said all these recommendations are still up for approval.

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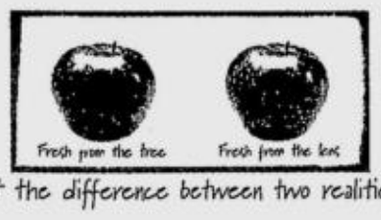

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Reds ban landmines

By Martin P. Marfil

A FILIPINO communist group included in the United States' list of foreign terrorist organizations has signed an international deed of commitment against the use of landmines.

The Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) signed the deed on July 21 in Metro Manila with representatives of Geneva Call (GC), an organization working to secure "humanitarian norms" for armed groups worldwide.

GC made the announcement yesterday, eve of International Humanitarian Law Day, which is celebrated Aug. 12.

In a statement, GC said that RPA-ABB was the third group to sign the agreement. The two others were the Sudan People's Liberation Army which signed on Oct. 4, 2001; and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, on April 7, 2002.

Those who signed the commitment last month were RPA-ABB chair Arturo Tabara and peace panel chair Nilo de la Cruz; GC regional director for Asia Soliman Santos Jr.; and Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines executive committee member Alfredo Lubang.

In another press statement, Tabara said, "(RPA-ABB's) adherence to the humanization of conflict in practice means we strive to avoid, by all means, the loss of lives and destruction of property in the course of our armed struggle."

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Protests to greet latest oil price hike

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MILITANTS have threatened to start noise barrages and hold continuous rallies in front of the offices of the "Big Three" oil refiners to protest the latest round of petroleum price increases.

"No satisfactory reasons will justify the recent increase in oil prices," said Sammy Malunes, spokesperson for the Kilusang Mayo Uno.

Members of the KMU and the youth group Anakbayan will start the protest actions by "storming" the Makati office of Petron, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum and Caltex Philippines this morning, Malunes said.

Petron set off the latest round of price hikes when it increased its pump prices by 30 centavos very early yesterday.

The two other major oil firms—Caltex Philippines and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum—followed suit later that day.

New players Seaoil Petroleum, Eastern Petroleum and TotalFinaElf Philippines Petroleum said they would also be raising their prices today.

A Flying V official said the company was considering doing the same later today.

Pilipinas Shell spokesperson Roberto Kanapi said in a telephone interview they decided to carry on with the price hikes when Dubai crude prices did not go down after two weeks of monitoring.

Average Dubai crude prices were pegged at $24.67 per barrel in July, up by 75 cents from $23.91 per barrel in June.

At the same time, the peso depreciated by 13 centavos from P50.43 to the dollar in June to P50.56 last month.

As a rule, local oil prices go up by 35 centavos for every dollar increase in crude prices and by 17 centavos for every peso lost to the dollar.

The oil firms last moved their prices on June 26, cutting by 35 centavos per liter the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene.

The KMU's Malunes said other militant groups like the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Gabriela, the Confederation for the Unity and Recognition of Government Employees (Courage) and Migrante would be holding noise barrages along Edsa in Cubao and at the Welcome Rotunda in Quezon City.

"The latest increase will automatically effect an adjustment in the prices of basic commodities," he said. "Workers and other poor sectors cannot bear more price hikes."

He said the low wages that workers receive were far below the amount they actually needed in order to survive.

"A family of six from Metro Manila needs P534 a day for their basic needs. How can we afford this when we only earn P250 a day?" he said.

Consumer welfare advocate Raul Concepcion, who had said earlier that oil price increases were to be expected this month, said there was no reason for prices of basic goods and transport fares to go up.

The KMU challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo and Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. to order the oil companies to roll back their prices.

Consumers gain 'victory of sorts' on PPA

A COALITION of consumer groups has claimed "substantial victory" in its fight against the purchased power adjustment fee imposed by the National Power Corp. and the Manila Electric Co.

Alain Pascua, head of the Abolish the PPA! secretariat, welcomed the recent order of Pasig Judge Alfredo Flores denying Napocor's motion to reconsider the court's denial of an earlier motion to dismiss the coalition's suit against the PPA.

Flores, however, also denied the consumer groups' motion for a writ of injunction against the PPA.

"The court order is merely a tactical setback for us," Pascua said. "That the court denied Napocor's motion to dismiss the suit strongly recognizes the existence of a valid cause for relief against the PPA."

"It is not true the court order summarily dismissed and junked our petition against the PPA," Pascua said. ***Ronnel W. Domingo***

Motives offered in Go slay

FORMER Manila councilor Chika Go gave President Macapagal-Arroyo "a file" exposing a human smuggling syndicate before he was murdered on Saturday afternoon, Mary "Rosebud" Ong said yesterday.

The file named a Cabinet member, a mayor and a police general among the protectors of the syndicate, which is headed by a Chinese businessman who also dabbles in drugs, Ong said.

Ong said Go gave the file to the President when she visited the National Bureau of Investigation on Aug. 2.

SPO4 Alfredo Salazar, Manila police case investigator, said one of the leads they are pursuing is a report that Go had filed a P40-million damage suit against "a drug lord." ***Philip Tubeza***

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JV Rufino is named INQ7.net ed-in-chief

JV RUFINO

INQUIRER Interactive Inc. president and CEO Paolo Prieto has announced the appointment of Javier Vicente "JV" Rufino as editor-in-chief of INQ7.net, the collaboration on the Web between the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA-7 News.

Rufino, 28, is an INQ7.net pioneer and was its executive editor prior to his promotion.

"It is with great excitement that I am announcing the promotion of JV Rufino to the editor-in-chief position. Through his hard work, dedication and leadership by example, JV has in the past demonstrated leadership and vision in the editorial department," Prieto said in his statement announcing Rufino's promotion.

Rufino, who has a BS Management Information System degree from the Ateneo University, developed the system that is used to upload "Breaking News" on Inquirer.net, the precursor of INQ7.net.

It was a skeletal force composed mostly of encoders and editors, Rufino said, of the original Inquirer.net. Today, INQ7.net has a workforce of 40 techies, editors, web designers, marketing crew and administrative staff.

Then known as PPwhiz, the system would be developed and fine-tuned into GWhiz, the system that is used by INQ7.net to upload stories from its content providers, the INQUIRER and GMA-7.

A techie and MAC enthusiast, Rufino is the moderator of the INQ7.net discussion board and the INQ7.net polls. He also writes the column "Deus Ex MAChina" in the infotech section of the website, aside from managing Platypus Inc., a publishing house on trade and technology.

Platypus produced the landmark CD, "20 Speeches that Moved a Nation," a collection of speeches by great Filipinos as delivered by Filipino artists.

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Senate bill to protect poor patients

SENATE President Protempore Manuel Villar has filed a bill that would prohibit hospitals and other medical institutions from detaining patients who cannot pay their bills.

Villar filed Senate Bill 2234 in a bid to protect indigent patients, saying "the practice of detaining poor patients only prolongs their stay in hospital and leads to higher bills."

"This is simply an act of detention," Villar said. "It is legally and morally unacceptable."

The bill would allow an underprivileged patient to leave the hospital upon execution of a promissory note covering the hospital bill.

The promissory note would be secured by either a mortgage or by a co-maker acceptable to hospital management. ***Rocky Nazareno***

'Moral' political group set

WHAT can an ordinary citizen do to help put the country in order?

This question will be addressed at a news conference on Aug. 19 during which the Kapatiran sa Pangkalahatang Kabutihan (KPK) is set to be launched.

Organizers have described KPK as "a nonviolent political movement with a moral dimension," initiated by ordinary citizens and the lay faithful. The launch is scheduled at 10 a.m. at Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan.

According to its president Mario E. Ongkiko, Kapatiran is committed to "work for the common good" and "translate into reality a government of the people, by the people and for the people."

Buencamino; 86

MANUELA "Nene" Viri Buencamino of San Miguel, Bulacan, died Aug. 11 at the age of 86.

She is survived by her brothers Francisco, Felipe, Victor and Bienvenido, nephews, nieces and grandchildren.

Her remains lie at the family residence on Buencamino St., San Jose, San Miguel, Bulacan. Interment will be announced later.

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Palace negotiator seeks CPP peace terms

By Carlito Pablo and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MALACAÑANG'S back-channel negotiator is challenging the communist rebels to name what they want in exchange for abandoning their 34-year-old armed struggle.

"What do they want in exchange for the demobilization of their forces?" said Norberto Gonzales, who is also the presidential adviser for special concerns.

Gonzales, also in charge of back-channel negotiations with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), is not saying what concessions the Macapagal administration is willing to offer the communist rebels.

"I don't know yet," he said in a phone interview. "But we (government and rebels) can talk about it."

He said the primary focus of the government in the stalled peace talks was the "demobilization of rebel forces."

This can be construed as the negotiated surrender of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA).

"The CPP-NPA should stop representing themselves as the representatives of the Filipino people," Gonzales said. "They should come to the negotiating table representing only themselves and that's why, they should say what they want for themselves as an organization."

Gonzales admitted that his remarks would not sit well with the CPP-NPA and the National Democratic Front, a group that includes the CPP.

A spokesperson of the NDF negotiating panel lambasted the appointment of Gonzales as the government representative to the "back channel" peace efforts.

"We consider him a political hustler notorious for ingratiating himself in the past with the Moro National Liberation Front and then betraying it by supplying intelligence information to the US and Philippine intelligence agencies even during the time of Marcos," Fidel Agcaoili said.

For his part, Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, CPP spokesperson, said "the revolutionary movement can never agree to Gonzales' call for it to abandon the armed struggle.

Rosal pointed out that the administration's "exploitative and oppressive policies were causing the people to advance the armed struggle."

All-out war against CPP not justified, logical

From page A1

Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) after the Armed Forces of the Philippines overran 45 MILF camps in Central Mindanao. The NPA could not therefore be considered more menacing than the MILF.

The second is that the NPA and its ideological fountainhead, the National Democratic Front (NDF), are not only on the run. They are fatigued. Their ideology has lost relevance. They even lost their centers of dialectic and material support—Moscow and Beijing—during the Cold War.

Out of proportion

The NPA is not capable of a sustained guerrilla war and its ability to spread revolution and capture power is markedly diminished. The implication of Ms Macapagal's war on the NPA is that it is blowing the communist threat out of proportion.

The third argument is that the negotiations option has been available since 1986 after Corazon Aquino became president. Subsequent administrations have explored this option. The Macapagal administration is the first to suspend the talks and shut the door to political settlement, while it resumes negotiations with the MILF.

The fourth argument is that, with the collapse of communist states (the former Soviet Union and the central European client states) and the absorption by China and Vietnam of market elements in their social and economic systems, the NDF cannot show a model of what a successful Marxist state would be like.

The NDF is seeking a revolution without a cause or a vision. So, its call to arms to cripple the nation with economic sabotage is pure banditry and self-defeating if it seeks to rally the poor behind a revolution that has failed.

Reviving a bogey

These arguments lead us to the question of why the Macapagal administration is reviving the communist bogey. After the relatively successful campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, the government acquired an exaggerated sense of military power, driven more by euphoria than by its capability to fight wars on too many fronts simultaneously—against organized crime, the communists, the Abu Sayyaf and the MILF or even the Moro National Liberation Front.

In exchange for the administration's uncritical support for President George W. Bush's war on terrorism, the United States has loosened its purse strings for the Philippines for the first time since the end of the Cold War.

It has pledged at least $50 million in military and economic aid to the Macapagal administration to give it the muscle to strengthen the Philippines as a Southeast Asian front in the war on terrorism, and to help it combat poverty.

The government's commitment to back the US global strategy against terrorism has been rewarded with some success, i.e., the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, which Washington has linked to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

The Sept. 11, 2001 events were a watershed. The bombings on the heartland of American military power and capitalism linked the Philippines to a strategic alliance with the United States for the first time since the expulsion of the US bases in 1992.

After the Cold War, the Philippines was again integrated into the US strategic alliance, but the cementing element this time is the common fight against terrorism.

No link

The United States has defined terrorists to include the communists, although there is absolutely no shred of evidence to link the NPA to al-Qaida, much less to the Sept. 11 bombing.

The Philippine government has embraced this categorization and is stepping up the war on the NPA as part of the framework of the new strategic coalition in which the United States is resuming significant aid to the Philippines—resources which the government badly needs to strengthen the Armed Forces, increase its capacity for asserting its police authority and enhance its ability to finance economic development projects.

The government is not bothered about Washington's plans to attack Iraq, tagged as being led by a terrorist regime. It is not worried that, under the new strategic alliance, the Philippines could be transformed into a staging area in the Asian front in the fight against terrorism.

US plans to attack Iraq make European allies, including its staunchest supporter, Britain, nervous. While they responded to the US-led campaign to topple the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, this time, the Europeans worry over what they call American "unilateralism" flowing out of the awareness that the US is the remaining superpower in the post-Cold War Era and is dragging them along a conflict not as equals but as mercenaries.

In reply, the hawks in Washington are branding the Europeans as "anti-Semitic," in the context of European criticism of US support for Israel in its conflict with the Palestinians. The hawks are dredging up memories that the Europeans did little to stop Hitler's campaign to exterminate the Jews in the Holocaust.

The highlighting of the communist threat, therefore, is partly a function of the reinvention of the RP-US strategic alliance.

Political dividends

On the domestic front, Ms Macapagal has been mesmerized by the notion that a war policy—against enemies of the state—pays political dividends. In general, war mobilizes people behind a government if they perceive that their security and lives are threatened. They tend to overlook faults of the government, and too often, war policy results in diverting popular attention from domestic issues such as corruption and economic mismanagement.

The administration is projecting enemies against which popular support can be directed. This tactic is partly dictated by the fact that the President's popularity has declined.

There is urgency for her to recover from this fall, and the war policy is clearly one of the measures to regain popularity.

She is taking a leaf from the dramatic recovery of popularity of then President Joseph Estrada after the successful campaign against MILF camps. There is, therefore, powerful logic in creating a permanent lineup of enemies of the state.

The danger of this approach, however, is that the use of limited government resources in the perpetual campaign against "enemies" may produce results that are not commensurate with the effort and the expenditure of resources. When this happens, and this is already happening, we are witnessing a shadow play of monstrous proportions.

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2 killed, 4 hurt in Ormoc ship blast

TWO CREWMEN were killed and four were injured after an explosion ripped through an inter-island passenger ship that was undergoing repairs at the Ormoc City port late yesterday morning.

Lt. Armand Balilo, Philippine Coast Guard spokesman, identified the dead as assistant engineer Benjie Alcala and oiler Lope Tumanda. Both were killed on the spot after an explosion ripped the air tank of the MV Tacloban Princess' auxiliary engine, Balilo said.

He said there were no passengers on the ship, which is owned by Sulpicio Lines, since it was in port for repairs. Crewmen were repairing the ship's engines when the explosion happened, Balilo said.

Alcala died from severe head injuries while Tumanda had a big open wound in the stomach, he said.

Balilo identified the injured as chief engineer Edgar Villagonzalo, 2nd engineer Charlton Ragadio, 3rd engineer Rey Gardoce and assistant engineer Jun Areola. They suffered third degree burns from the blaze that ensued after the explosion.

Philip C. Tubeza

GMA spending spree seen to prop up economy

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo plans to go on a pre-election spending spree to prop up economic growth despite a ballooning budget deficit which has cast doubt on government's competence in fiscal management.

The President is considering a higher-than-expected national budget of P820 billion for 2003 to finance development projects crucial in alleviating poverty among 40 percent of her 80 million citizens, aides say.

Under the expansionary budget plans, which also include cash-sapping anti-terrorism and other programs to restore law and order, the government's deficit ceiling will hit a staggering P155 billion in 2003.

Legislators and analysts warn the worsening deficit may put off financial markets and foreign donors, already fidgety when the government missed by a big margin its deficit target in the first half of this year.

The President, an economist, pledged financial prudence as a key slogan when she took over from corruption-tainted jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada nearly halfway through his six-year term in a popular uprising in January 2001.

She is widely expected to defend her post in the 2004 presidential polls, for which the opposition says the budget is "clearly designed."

In its first year in power, the Macapagal government missed by P2 billion the budget deficit target of P145 billion due largely to low revenue collections.

The problem worsened in 2002, with the government overshooting its first half budget deficit ceiling by a hefty 53 percent to P119.7 billion, just about P10 billion shy of the full-year target of P130 billion.

Administration Representative Herminio Teves warned that the full-year gap between spending and revenue in 2002 could balloon to P163 billion unless the government resorted to major spending cuts or drastically improved revenue collection.

"If the government cannot even raise enough revenues to support this year's budget, then there's no point in pushing for a spending program next year that is P20 billion or P40 billion more," said the legislator from Negros.

The government initially proposed a 2003 budget of P800.7 billion, P19.9 billion more than this year's, but revised plans upwards to P820 billion last week.

Opposition Sen. John Osmeña warned that the budget deficit problem could plunge the Philippines into an Argentina-like situation, referring to the collapse of the Latin American economy following a massive debt default.

He said the deficit, on the back of limited revenues and relatively higher interest rates than neighboring countries, would limit the country's borrowing capacity.

He warned that the total debt stock was "very dangerously high, almost approaching 80 percent of our GDP".

Total outstanding debt of the Philippines as of May 2002 is about P50 billion, according to finance department figures.

But Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho staved off the criticism, saying increasing the budget to stimulate the economy would not necessarily lead to a higher deficit ceiling. *AFP*

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Extended run

LAST Thursday, the President urged the country to put the case of Acsa Ramirez, the hapless Land Bank of the Philippines cashier, behind it.

"Let us not have an extended run on this issue," President Macapagal-Arroyo said, right at the head office of the LandBank, during its anniversary celebration. "We must move on with speedy and impartial justice."

EDITORIAL

We would like to oblige the President, but she has "this issue" all wrong.

Ramirez, who exposed a P203-million tax diversion scam at the bank's Binangonan, Rizal branch, was presented to the media the other week as an implied suspect in the same scam. The last-minute inclusion of Ramirez at the presentation was certainly speedy; we will grant the President that. But it was neither impartial nor just.

Consider the President's own words last Thursday, when she directed the National Bureau of Investigation "to determine once and for all whether she is culpable for violations of the anti-money laundering law." (Ramirez had been implicated by branch manager Artemio San Juan, the reason why the NBI was talking to her at the agency's headquarters.)

The President added: "If she is culpable, I order the NBI to file charges immediately. And if she is innocent, I order the NBI to immediately clear her as well."

A fine distinction, but one which begs the question: If the NBI did not yet know for certain whether Ramirez was culpable or innocent, then why did they present her in the first place?

Many words have issued from the mouth of NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco, but he has not even tried to explain why Ramirez, who was in the middle of an interview being conducted by the agency's Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division at that time of the presentation, was suddenly brought in. Perhaps there is no explanation.

"Maybe they should say something about it," LandBank president Margarito Teves said last Thursday. "If they had not presented her, there would have been no problem."

How is it that the NBI or Malacañang, for that matter—cannot see this?

But Wycoco has not only refused to apologize. He has threatened to file cases against Ramirez and her lawyer Virginia Suarez-Pinlac, for saying that NBI agents had apologized in private to the whistleblower-turned-suspect. Unfortunately for Wycoco, Ramirez has witnesses to back her claim, because the apology took place in the bank's main office.

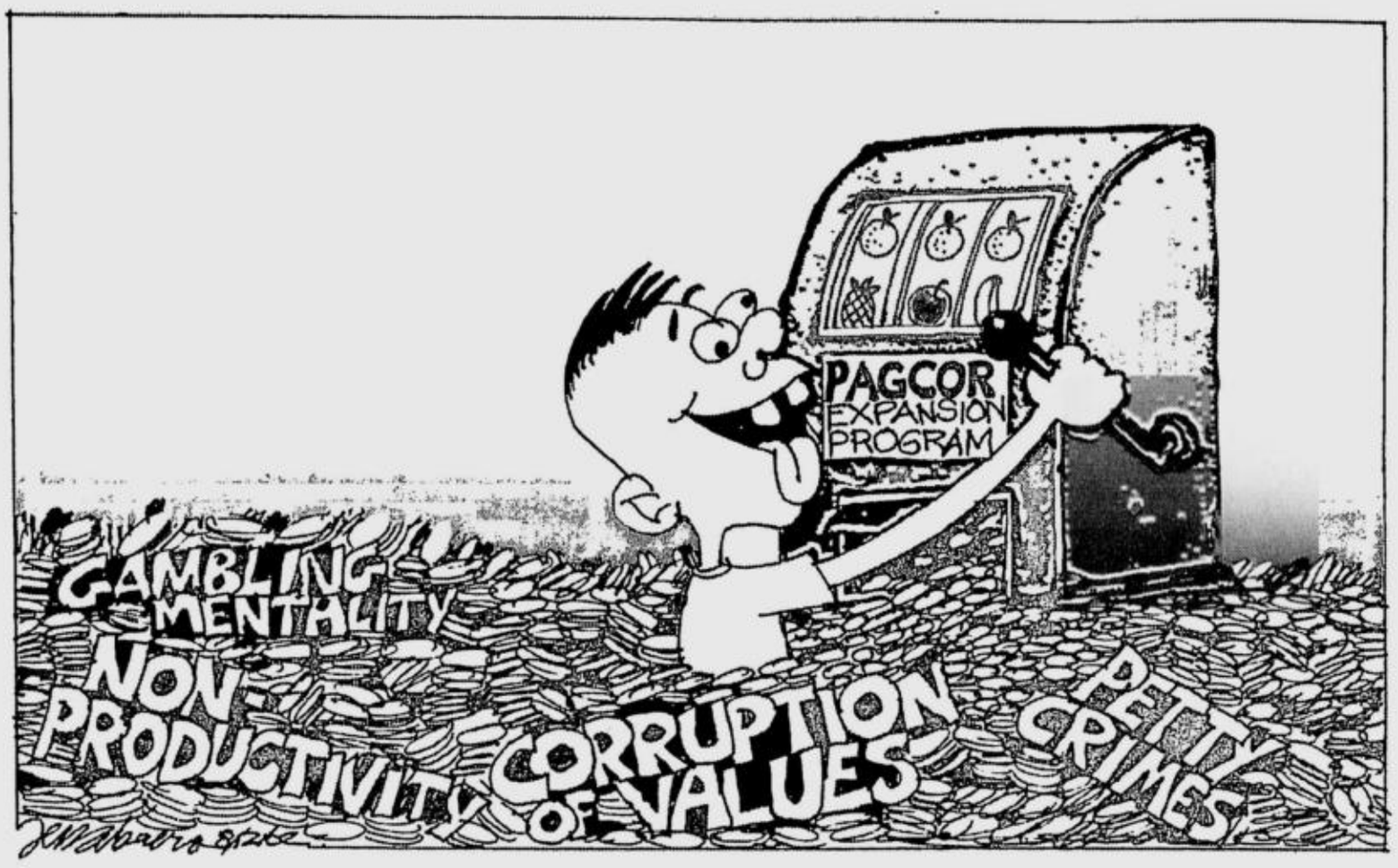
A gracious Teves raised the possibility that the NBI may have misunderstood Ramirez's role in the "discovery" of the scam, leading the agency to think that she was indeed among the suspects. "If that is an oversight (on the part of the bank), I'm willing to say I'm sorry," he said.

Teves' purpose may have been to cajole Wycoco into owning up to what is obviously a mistake, but if NBI officials misread his comment as an escape clause of sorts, they have another think coming. Ramirez was met by NBI agents at the bank's main office; with her were a bank vice president and a union lawyer. But the agents told the cashier's companions there was no need for them to accompany her to the NBI headquarters in Manila, because it was only a simple interview. If, then, the LandBank did commit an oversight, then the NBI violated the Constitution, because then the questioning that followed was no mere interview.

But if it was simply a candid exchange of information—and therefore not yet conclusive—why present her at all?

At the bank anniversary celebration, the President linked the pursuit of justice to "the lofty aim of the LandBank, which is social amelioration through financing land reform." There is nothing wrong with aiming high—unless we lose sight of the ground we're standing on.

In our criminal justice system, a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty. The mere presentation of suspects is therefore fraught with constitutional issues. To be sure, a distracted public will go along with the presentation of suspects who look the part, who live on the edges of society. But Ramirez's case is different: she looks like Everywoman, and her experience at the hands of insensitive government officials has the sound and feel of everyday life. This is the real reason why we cannot yet put this issue behind us. We look at Ramirez, one more prop for the image department of the so-called strong republic, and we recognize the shape of our life.



SC is soft on erring judges

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. of the Supreme Court had a belated reaction to the charge of US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone last month that the Philippine judiciary is tainted with corruption. He asked Ricciardone in a letter to name the corrupt judges he was referring to. I don't doubt the chief justice's sincerity but he may be like the indulgent mother who doesn't believe her spoiled son's peccadilloes or the cuckolded husband who is the last to know about his wife's infidelity. He may be like the white-collar criminal whose quick reaction to accusations of wrongdoing is "Prove it!"

Davide may be either blind or deaf, or both, not to know what is going on in the judiciary, right up to the appellate courts and the high tribunal itself. All he has to do is ask the practicing lawyers and litigants—but confidentially as lawyers and litigants are afraid to speak out because they understandably fear that they would lose all the cases tried and heard before the judges and justices they denounce.

Ironically, on the day (Aug. 10) Davide's challenge appeared on the front page of the INQUIRER, a column titled "Bribery in the Court of Appeals" by columnist Solita Collas-Monsod appeared on the opening page of the Opinion section (page 8), below the column of former Supreme Court Justice Isagani A. Cruz.

Monsod's column was about alleged bribery in the appellate court in which two justices had been accused of extorting from one Antonio Litonjua P1.5 million "to secure a favorable decision from them."

I'll let Monsod narrate it: "According to the complaint... CA Associate Justice Juan O. Enriquez Jr. asked Litonjua on the telephone to visit Enriquez at the latter's office. During the visit, Litonjua and his brother were allegedly told by Enriquez that a 'mobilization and judiciary expense fund' in the amount of P1.5 million would ensure the speedy resolution of the care involving them."

This is not the first time Litonjua and Enriquez had this type of transaction, Monsod said. "In a previous one, Enriquez was still a regional trial court judge and P500,000 allegedly changed hands." Which made Monsod wonder why, if Enriquez was taking bribes, he was still promoted to the CA.

That's not the end of the story. After Enriquez allegedly received the "bribe" and made the expected favorable decision, he reversed himself because of a counter-offer from the opposing camp "that he could not resist": the appointment of Enriquez's wife to the Sandiganbayan if he "amended" his decision. Which made Monsod wonder again if it is this easy to influence judicial appointments.

There's more to the story. Enriquez, as *ponente* of a CA decision, in effect reversed a decision of the Supreme Court which has become final and executory, in spite of the fact that the CA is a subordinate court, as Enriquez himself admits.

I retold the Monsod column to give the chief justice a case of corruption in the judiciary that he doesn't have to ask a foreigner about, and which there are the first two names whom the tribunal should punish.

Ah, punishment, that's still another story. The letter to Ricciardone said that "the tribunal has not been remiss in imposing sanctions on erring lawyers, prosecutors and magistrates." Maybe, but what kind of sanctions? A slap on the wrist?

I'll show an example of why corruption in the judiciary will continue in spite of "sanctions" meted by the high court on erring judges: the Supreme Court tends to protect erring judges. The tribunal may have strong words about "weeding out" corrupt judges, but it is really soft on the corrupt and incompetent judges by frequently imposing only "admonitions," "censure," "reprimand," or "fines." After that, the rogue judge is free again to preside in a court and dispense his own brand of justice dictated by ignorance or corruption.

Take the case of a recently decided case in Administrative Matter No. OCA IPI 97-414 RTC (Melissa Domondon, et al, vs. Judge Percival Mandap Lopez, RTC, Branch 78, Quezon City) filed by students of AMA Computer College in Quezon City against respondent judge.

The Supreme Court found that (1) "respondent judge unduly delayed its resolution of the prayer for temporary preliminary mandatory injunction to allow them to attend their classes and take their examination," and (2) that he was "guilty of gross ignorance of the law by dismissing the complaint even without a motion to dismiss filed by the defendant school and without hearing and trial and basing the dismissal on unverified pleadings of the defendant submitted in its opposition to the issuance of the temporary preliminary mandatory injunction."

And what was the penalty imposed by the Supreme Court? Only a fine of P5,000. That's nothing. *Barya lang yan sa* judge. That's a mere slap on the wrist. That won't teach an erring judge not to do it again. On the contrary, that is an incentive to do more because the punishment is very light. The light punishment was dished out despite respondent judge's failure to heed a prior warning. Now he is back in his sala dispensing his own concept of justice. If he is ignorant of the law, then he should not be dispensing justice, right? So why did the tribunal allow him to dispense possible injustices with his ignorance of the law?

The Supreme Court itself over which Davide presides, is not free of scandalous cases. I will present one such case in the next column.

Postscript to an iniquity

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"LET us not have an extended run on this issue. Let us move on."

That was what Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said at the Land Bank of the Philippines anniversary celebration last week. She was referring to her and National Bureau of Investigation chief Reynaldo Wycoco's presentation of one of LandBank's own, Acsa Ramirez, as a suspect in a tax scam. Unwilling to backtrack, or apologize for the blunder, GMA added that she had ordered the NBI to determine once and for all Ramirez's own culpability in the crime.

Every time I hear that phrase, "let us move on," or worse, "life goes on," I cringe. Elsewhere in the world, people say it philosophically, in this country people say it to cover up an injustice. That is the motto that has loosed this country from all its moral moorings. That is the principle, or lack of it, that has plunged this country to the pits. That is what the police say every time they riddle a hostage with bullets along with the hostage-taker. That is what the cronies, who want "reconciliation," say each time the tyrants, under whose rule they pillaged the country ruthlessly, fall. That is what government keeps telling the kin of those who were "salvaged," tortured, or made to disappear. That is what the CPP-NDF-NPA say about the "killing fields," or their slaughter of their comrades.

There is no need to be penitent. There is no need to apologize. What has happened has happened. Let us not dwell on the past. Life goes on. Let us move on.

Well, life does not move on when it glosses over injustice. It gets stuck, like a fly that has been caught in a flytrap, however hard it tries to wriggle out of it. It will not budge. Life does not go on, only death does.

If you recall, Ms. President, some years ago, when you were running for vice president, you yourself were depicted in a light that you resented. The INQUIRER ran a story quoting someone who suggested your campaign kitty might be contaminated with gambling money. Unlike Ramirez, who is a private person and who overcame a natural disinclination to antagonize powerful and influential superiors only by being impelled to do the right thing, you were a public figure. You were public domain. Your chosen profession demanded public scrutiny.

Yet you did not say let us not dwell on this issue, let us move on. You barged into the INQUIRER office and hurled the offending—at least as you saw it—newspaper down at the faces of its editor and publisher. You demanded a public apology for something that was perfectly arguable. What has happened to Ramirez is not arguable. There was no reason to suppose that Ramirez, who had gone to Malacañang at the NBI's invitation, could have been implicated in a crime that would never have been known if not for her. Yet you and Wycoco depicted her as a criminal. At the precise moment when she deserved only the thanks and admiration of this country—most of all of someone who was eager to show the world she meant to crack down on crime.

Unlike you, Ramirez is not in a position to storm into Malacañang and upbraid you for an unpresidential display of recklessness and callousness. Unlike you, she is not a president's daughter, a vice presidential candidate at the time the INQUIRER story came out, who has access to the media and can always tell her side, who has awesome resources to rescue a reputation, or image, from being held hostage by others. Ramirez is only a cashier—in a bank she obviously has much *malasakit* for, or she would not have done what she did. Her reputation, her honor, and her good name are the only things she possesses, that she can bequeath proudly to her children. Though for most everyone of us, those are riches beyond compare.

To take them away from her by sheer carelessness, that is iniquity. To refuse to restore them to her by sheer stubbornness, that is the greater iniquity. Indeed, to abide by the lie and insist on making it the truth by hounding the innocent, that is damnable. I do not care that you do that to your powerful enemies, to the so-called Opposition, or to people who merely piss you off, people who have the same awesome resources as you do to defend themselves. And most of them are contemptible anyway, and deserve as much what you give them as they give you. But I do care that you have done this to an ordinary citizen, to someone who is no position to defend herself, indeed to an ordinary citizen who has done an extraordinary thing. Which is to show the 19 percent of this country's population who want to leave it that there is another choice, which is to act to make things better.

A message that was thwarted by your and Wycoco's presentation of her as the enemy. That can only jack up the 19 percent.

Frankly, I cannot understand why you and Wycoco refuse to admit a mistake and apologize. A character flaw is too big a phrase for it. What can an apology do to your campaign against crime? It can only strengthen it, making it look like a genuine effort to rid the country of its dregs, and its dregs alone. What can an apology do to you personally? It can only make you look big, the truly big person being someone who has a big heart and a big mind, someone with the capacity to want to right wrongs, including those one commits oneself.

But in the end, this is not about you and/or Wycoco. The real tragedy is not what all this has done to you and/or Wycoco, to your anti-crime campaign, to the future of the national security. The real tragedy is what this has done to Acsa Ramirez, to her standing in the community, to the future of her children. An apology is not due her as a matter of option, or strategy, or damage control. It is a matter of right.

A word of thanks should help too.

That is what makes life go on. That is what makes us move on.

Joma's group as 'legit political organization?'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE INCLUSION by the US government of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed component, the New People's Army, in its list of "foreign terrorist organizations" (FTO) could result in the CPP/NPA's isolation and the drying up of its funding resources. And as former National Democratic Front leader and now Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo noted, it could even lead to the expulsion of CPP/NPA Chief Jose Ma. Sison from the Netherlands where he and his wife Juliet de Lima have been living since 1986. These could become possible now that the world's only superpower is applying international pressure against the CPP/NPA and 33 other organizations in its FTO list. While the Netherlands has pursued a fairly independent political course of action from the US, there's no question that pressure from the US is bound to influence the Dutch in many ways.

* * *

Joma Sison, in protesting the US move, asserted that the CPP is a "legitimate political organization" that has been decriminalized since the ouster of the dictator Marcos in 1986. One might add that since the repeal of Marcos' old Anti-Subversion Law, RA 1700, by former President Cory Aquino in 1986 and the collapse of the communist regimes over a decade ago, a number of NDF leaders have surfaced and joined the political mainstream, led by Rep. Satur Ocampo. However, Joma cannot deny that the NPA has continued its acts of violence not only against government forces but also against the harmless civilian population, such as their imposition of burdensome "revolutionary taxes" in the countryside and the burning of public buses owned by businessmen who dared defy their taxation in Bicol and Mindanao.

* * *

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye has expressed the hope that the international isolation of the CPP/NPA would motivate them to pursue more vigorously peaceful negotiations with the government, which have taken an erratic course over the years due to the assassination of public officials by the NPAs. We can only hope so, for as Speaker Jose de Venecia has pointed out, even Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, whose government has hosted the ongoing peace talks in Oslo, has personally urged Joma Sison to abandon the armed struggle and join the political mainstream at home.

Indeed, it's time for Joma to come home and slug it out politically here, if the CPP is truly the "legitimate political organization" that he claims it is. A natural leader like Joma, who incredibly has been running the CPP's revolution by remote control from Utrecht, could play a pivotal role in a more urgent revolution here, against poverty and underdevelopment. But as our Asian neighbors have shown, such revolution can only be won without the terrorism of the NPA in the countryside.

* * *

Earlier I said I couldn't think of a lovelier way to spend an evening than at the fund-raising concert organized by Kilosbayan and Bantay Katarungan at the Romulo Auditorium of the RCBC Bldg. in Makati last Aug. 6. I was not disappointed, for the music and the artists were just superb. Soprano Andion Fernandez, fresh from her training in Germany, has emerged with a richer and fuller voice, while Nomer Son, an architect by training, retained his magnificent baritone, aside from proving that he is a superb actor as well. Tenor Nolyn Cabahug has trimmed considerably but his voice remains smooth and powerful as ever, while Prof. Lourdes de Leon-Gregorio accompanied the trio on the piano with enormous competence as they sang Broadway hits, arias from famous Italian operas and our own kundimans and patriotic songs. I specially loved their rendition of such songs as Francisco Santiago's Pilipinas Kong Mahal and our anthem in the parliament of the streets, Constancio de Guzman's Bayan Ko. Director Maria Montelibano competently programmed the whole concert.

I felt sorry that President Macapagal-Arroyo failed to attend the concert as she was scheduled to, as she could have had a welcome respite from her duties and problems; Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo represented her at the award ceremony. Later I suggested to former Senate President Jovito Salonga, the moving spirit behind the two organizations, to consider taking the singers on a road show around the country, if only to reawaken our patriotic feelings through the nationalistic songs of our race.

* * *

In between the music, Kilosbayan/Bantay Katarungan reaped honors on four "heroes of our time." One was the "model public servant," 31-year-old elementary schoolteacher Marilyn Bien-Bongiad of Camarines Sur, whose honesty and moral integrity compelled her to return P6 million wrongly credited to her account by the Department of Education. Secretary Raul Roco awarded her a plaque and P100,000 from the organizers. Also honored for her indomitable courage and compassion was the late Basilan nurse Ediborah Yap, who chose to stay behind and minister to the kidnapped missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, when she could have been released.

The Burnhams were also cited for their 15-year service to our indigenous mountain tribes "without counting the cost" and their extraordinary faith and courage in their year-long captivity. Salonga, recalling how Martin was tied to a tree by his Abu Sayyaf captors every night for a whole year, said that while his own life had been witness to many trials, "I don't know if I could have survived with as much grace and courage the ordeal of Martin." On hand to receive the Burnhams' citation from Secretary Romulo was Martin's sister, Cheryl Spicer, who will stay here for two years to continue her brother's ministry. A taped message of thanks was also heard from Gracia Burnham.

The evening was a rare combination of the beautiful music of several races, generous tributes to man's indomitable spirit and a deserving cause (helping Bantay Katarungan raise much-needed funds for its worthy projects in improving the delivery of justice services here).

'Sarah'

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

IF I never write another column again for the rest of my life, it wouldn't bother me, not because, like the singer Matt Monro's ballad, I've had it all as far as fame and fortune go. Trust me on this one: "provincial" journalists take a vow of poverty and obscurity the moment they decide to join the fray. There are no exceptions; there are only adventurists.

That column titled "UP beloved," (PDI, 6/17/02) would have been worth it all. It was about "Sarah," who despite severely deprived circumstances qualified in the University of the Philippines College Admission Test but for the same reason failed to enroll in UP last June.

The day after it was published, I received a call on my mobile phone from a gentleman who described himself as a Manila businessman and right then and there offered to underwrite Sarah's schooling in UP: tuition, books and all, including monthly allowances, for the entire course.

When I said it might be too late for her to enroll he even offered to deposit the needed amount for her enrollment that very day. He asked only one thing, which he repeatedly emphasized during our conversation. "I don't want to be written about, and please don't ever reveal my name, except maybe to Sarah, but only when necessary."

No, he was not a UP alumnus he said, in reply to my query, he was an Atenean. "I just want to help talented, intelligent Tausug youth like Sarah," he said, adding that if at any time his personal circumstances would compel him to discontinue the scholarship he would look for other sources among his friends.

How did I feel? Mindlessly, I said goodbye before he did. Journalist may be forgiven bad telephone manners, I hoped, but they are not supposed to cry into a caller's earpiece, not even so-called tears of joy.

And truly, when it rains, it pours. That night when out of curiosity I checked my textmail I could not believe what I read. Messages with offers to help, two of them coming from as far as the United States. They were incredible as they were touching.

I don't have the permission to disclose their identities and like my caller—let's call him Mr. R.P.—they may wish to remain anonymous, but I would like to share with you some excerpts so I will just use initials:

RGV, also an Ateneo alumnus: "I am not yet capable of providing any financial assistance at present but expect to do so in the future. When that time comes I would like to know the procedures so that I can start immediately."

HP, a Filipina resident of Virginia, USA: "May I have her full real name and address and see how I can help even in small ways? I cannot promise yet because my job here in the US government is somewhat unstable because of the upcoming lay-off."

A lady with a prominent surname who I know is not only very busy with her numerous concerns, but someone who I did not even expect would bother reading my column: "How can I best help Sarah?" I recall what my mother used to say about what makes a "lady."

Space limitations prevent me from citing all of them, and very limited means of communication available to me in Jolo will explain why I cannot reply to them as promptly as expected.

There is no Internet server here and I have to go to Zamboanga City to access my Yahoo mail. I can receive and answer mail only on my Smart address, using my mobile, and I have to "thumb through" every letter of my reply and just like text messages, am limited to 160 characters, which show up truncated on your PC.

And just to give you an idea of the state of communication in Jolo, I have to stay up to attend to my mail because it is only about midnight that I can get a good signal. Long messages, in installments of 160 characters don't even fall in order and are sometimes incomplete. Often it takes me up to the wee hours of the morning waiting for the missing portions.

Anyway, as soon as I'm finished with this personal concern that has disrupted and dominated my life for the past month or so, I will go to Zamboanga just to reply to each and everyone of these incredible human beings who spent the time reading what I wrote and thought my "cause" worthwhile, enough for them to sit down and respond and offer their help.

To be honest, after so many years of writing, most of it in relative obscurity, it is still a source of wonder to me that people actually read what I write, and when, as in my case they tell me that they clip and save my pieces, I have to find a private place where I can say a prayer of thanks to the Almighty for trusting me with this ability to communicate.

But to be able to move people to help someone they don't even know, and from which they have nothing to gain, at least not in our usual understanding of "gain," is something I never, ever bargained for.

And just when I thought that Muslims, especially the Tausug, had become the pariah of Philippine society, many of them offered to help "Sarah" because she is a Tausug.

As for Sarah, Mr. R.P.'s help came too late. I called UP Los Baños, and although enrollment was extended to June 28, there just simply was not enough time for her to prepare all the requirements to be able to make it.

But the story doesn't end there. In fact, it may just be the beginning, and with God's grace, a never-ending one. More on this later.

For now, to all those who wrote, my heartfelt gratitude.

* * *

Comments welcome at noralynmustafa@yahoo.com or noralynmustafa3@my.smart.com.ph

The real game of the 21st century

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

EXCITEMENT had been building up for weeks over an impending basketball game last Saturday between two of the country's top educational institutions, the Ateneo de Manila and De La Salle Univerity. (Beloved brother Ezra, produced a miracle by which I ended up with ring-side seats.) I wanted to watch this game because partisans on one side claim that the INQUIRER's Sports section, was unfairly ballyhooing the new-found strengths of the other side, and touting them as the sure bet to take away the most coveted crown in collegiate sports. (The De La Salle Green Archers have taken the league championship four years running. They are gunning for an unprecedented five-in-a-row.)

When some of those partisans complained to me about the allegedly one-sided coverage by sports writers of this newspaper, I immediately suggested writing to the Reader's Advocate (Raul Palabrica, my usual neighbor to your right). Besides, it is inevitable, I said, that some partisanship and editorializing would creep into coverage of such things as collegiate sports.

"Oh, no," they wailed and moaned. "Your newspaper has really been one-sided. Even after the lowly University of the Philippines Maroons beat them, you still portrayed them as a strong team. You even published the defense of that guy who was suspended for punching another player." I'm only a minor contributor to the INQUIRER's Op-ed, I said, having nothing to do with Sports. So they hinted darkly, and melodramatically, at huge sums of money flowing from the coffers of PLDT chieftain, Manny Pangilinan, who is an alumnus of the Ateneo, supporting the team with logistics and, ahem, free cell phones. To which I facetiously said they ought to seek the counterweight of Gerry Ablaza, a La Salle alumni and chieftain of Globe Telecommunications.

So you see, no La Salle-Ateneo game happens without the background action of their legions of fans and alumni, who engage in wars of attrition, propaganda and fierce expressions of school spirit and loyalty, inculcated in them with the Catechism of their childhood's faith.

That much was in evidence, as the game buzzer electrified the luminous air, and Time stood still for the jump-ball at the Araneta Coliseum last Saturday, to the reverberant beating of furious drums and sizzling siz-boom-bahs from the gathered blue battalions and phalanxes of green. Now would all argumentation be settled in the gladiator arena of true competition?

The bee-like flight of sharpshooter Lewis Tenorio, was disrupted by the Spiderman-like guarding of Macmac Cardona, last year's gangly rookie of the year and the very personification of a successful defensive strategy. The performance of Ateneo center Rico Villanueva, finally able to sink baskets from 6 inches, was vastly diminished in significance by the towering men of La Salle, Karlo Sharma, Manny Ramos, Louis Vainio and Adonis Sta. Maria. Ateneo's Rich Alvarez, last year's Most Valuable Player, was suspended for one game for punching another player in a previous contest. Then there was the Kool Kat, Mike Cortes, La Salle's court general and the game's highest scorer, proof positive that basketball can be a game of brains as much as brawn. The La Salle bench would prove too deep, with Yeo and Tang and Cabatu and Gavino. It's fifth year captain-ball Willie Wilson, the iron gentleman tattooed like a Fijian warrior, is waiting for his fifth championship ring.

In the end there would be a quiver-full of green arrows in the red heart of the blue eagle, as the Archers seemed to score in punishing and demoralizing fusillades. The Blue Eagles had walked into coach Franz Pumaren's titanium meat grinder, again. Not even Ignatius of Loyola, gazing benignly down from heaven in the company of Jean Baptiste de la Salle, would intercede for the blackened blue-and-white, now more than decade in the purgatory of defeat, though never in the extremis of despair.

But there is a very great tradition at the end of these contests between the two great schools. Whether your side has won or lost, each side of the stadium stands with its team to reverently sing their Alma Mater songs, and, for winner and loser to quietly and respectfully honor each other's valiant efforts. This is the true spirit of competition which Filipinos have not yet learned and without which we shall always be weak. That in defeat there can be the victory of learning from the victor about ourselves, and in victory, the humility of knowing there is only the next time.

I wish that our ideological nationalists would take something from this. We have been conducting a sad war against our own past, at an expense of intellectual and emotional energy that could be better put to use in the service of the future. We have been bemoaning our shabby treatment at the hands of the Americans, blaming them for a present in which we have had at least half a century's worth of responsibility, resenting them for being a superpower and ourselves a former colony abandoned to our own tyrants. But it seems our nationalists are too busy fighting the battles of a century ago, not those of the next century.

As the Harvard and Yale of the Philippines, La Salle and Ateneo have produced the most durable but healthy sports rivalry. These premier educational institutions, and especially their influential alumni, must now lead the country in the coming battles for national survival, by inspiring the nation to compete with the rest of the world in friendly, if deadly, global economic competition that will require our brains, our brawn and our character. That is the real game of the 21st century, not Katipuneros against the Yankees.

Irreverent cartoon

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

FOR SOME Filipinos, the Philippine flag is an ordinary fixture in their daily life. It's something they see in the newspapers, motor vehicles, government buildings or practically everywhere.

While others may treat the national emblem lightly, a reader, Col. Luzvimindo Fajardo (ret), will not take sitting down any act that, in his opinion, degrades the dignity of the colors he served under for many years as a soldier.

The object of the reader's concern is the July 28 editorial cartoon of the INQUIRER. In a letter bristling with indignation, he said the cartoon struck him "as a desecration of our national banner by defacing it with superimpositions of garbage and poverty on the red field, floods on the blue and typhoons and storms on the sun and stars.

"I do not think it was meant to be funny. I myself share some views on the misfortunes that have befallen our nation but do not mock our flag, please. It is gross to say the least. Why not Mother Philippines holding our banner above all our calamities as a symbol of hope and to awaken our patriotism as citizens?

"There is a law—the Flag Law if I am not mistaken—which prescribes how the national flag is to be displayed and handled. Your cartoon, I believe, may have unwittingly violated this law since one provision in the law provides that the national flag cannot be defaced with other symbols or objects at all."

I share the reader's observation that the cartoon was out of line. Substituting squatter huts, garbage and national calamities for the sun, stars and colors of the national flag was an act of desecration. The cartoon would have made the Filipinos who gave up their lives to see the flag fly proudly in our skies turn in their graves.

The message that the cartoonist sought to convey to the readers, that is, the country is beset with natural and man-made calamities, can be expressed through other artistic means without losing its desired impact.

The INQUIRER apologizes for the improper use of the national flag in the subject cartoon. It regrets the unease and discomfort the cartoon may have caused the readers. The cartoonist shares this remorse and has taken some valuable lessons from the unfortunate incident.

Letters to the editor

Until a reader from Parañaque City told me otherwise, I was under the impression that once a letter to the editor is published that's the end of it. The "three minutes of fame" ends soon after the next day's edition comes out.

Apparently, letter writing can have some adverse consequences to the writer. Here's how the reader explained it: "I used to actively react as an INQUIRER reader by writing to the "Letters to the Editor." Most found publication, but I stopped since years back.

"Know why? Because you publish the complete address of reactors. God knows what kinds of letters I get from my mailbox after my address is printed. Encouraging reactions are welcome of course. But with them also are all forms of solicitations and chain letters. There are heart-tugging appeals from Culion Leper Colony and offers of friendship from Davao to Muntinlupa.

"Surely, you'll say, why not just ignore them? The thing is, if you are Christian enough, you will feel a sense of obligation to at least respond since after all, poor as they are, they also spent money to reach out and communicate. Still the whole experience leaves a heavy feeling and a sense of insecurity over personal safety.

"I think your paper will gain more readers if you will have a page for readers' forum but one where their addresses are not published. Of course, writers should prove their identity but such should be strictly taken in confidence and for your perusal only."

For starters, I would like to commiserate with the reader for the emotional trouble she had to go through as a result of the publication of her address in her letter to the editor. It never crossed my mind that the Letters section would be used as a database for solicitations and chain letters.

I have been the recipient of numerous chain letters so I know how it feels to be threatened with bad luck or eternal damnation if I break the "prayer trail" that the chain letters have supposedly established since God-knows-when. Regardless of who sends them, those letters always wind up in my trash can.

Responding to the reader's suggestion to withhold the publication of the address of the letter writer, the Opinion editor explained that the addresses have to be printed to authenticate the letters. They are meant to show to the readers that the letters are genuine and were not manufactured by the newspaper.

The editor withholds the writer's address if the latter asks for it and, in the editor's judgment, the disclosure may endanger his safety or lead to the loss of his livelihood. In all other situations, the rule of the thumb followed by the Opinion section staff is to publish the name and address of the letter writer.

Wrong lawyer

Better late than never. But let me end today's column with the letter of the Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz law offices (which I received only last week) calling my attention to the error in the July 15 issue of the INQUIRER ("BSP warns public against fund scams") where it reported that several military and police officials lost millions of pesos in investments in Glasgow Credit and Collection Services Inc.

The report stated that "a lawyer from Accra, one of the biggest law offices in the country, was reportedly representing Glasgow."

The law office complained that "had the writer exercised diligence and called our office, she would have been informed that neither Accra nor any of its individual lawyers is representing Glasgow. We hope that your writers will be more accurate in their reports and endeavor to uphold the truth in journalism."

An investigation of the circumstances behind the publication of the subject news report showed that neither the law office nor any of its lawyers acted as legal counsel of Glasgow. Outside of the say-so of one of the alleged victims, there was nothing on paper that would prove the lawyer-client relationship between the law office and the embattled investment company.

For this reason, the INQUIRER apologizes to the law office for the erroneous report. The mistake could have been avoided had the reporter gotten in touch with the law office to verify the statement of one of the disgruntled investors about the supposed lawyer-client relationship.

In recognition of such error, the follow-up stories on the Glasgow case did not make any reference to the law office or to who is the legal adviser, if any, of the investment company.

Mea culpa.

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City." Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Simple human decency demands it

IF Ms Acsa Ramirez were to sue NBI chief Reynaldo Wycoco and President Macapagal-Arroyo for defamation of character in a libel suit, she might get some redress for their shabby (criminal?) treatment of her. They might find it more convenient to apologize for their incredible behavior in her regard. Simple human decency demands admission of wrongdoing.

The general and the President do not admit to any wrongdoing? This leads us to think that simple—very ordinary and very fundamental—human decency is not theirs.

—FRANCISCO F. CLAVER, S.J., bishop, Bontoc-Lagawe, Mt. Province

Beyond destruction of reputations

ANYBODY could be Acsa Ramirez, the whistleblower who was mistakenly identified as a suspect in the P203-million money laundering case. But it might not just be one's reputation that may be ruined next time. Innocent lives may be lost.

With the declaration of an all-out war against the New People's Army and the redeployment of government troops in NPA-infested areas, military abuses against members of progressive organizations and civilians will increase even more. Records of the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (EMJP) show that the Armed Forces of the Philippines accounts for 80 percent of human rights violations.

The AFP has mastered the art of making stories to cover up their atrocities against civilians. The Arakan massacre last April is a case in point. The military claims that human rights worker and student journalist Benjaline "Beng" Hernandez and her three companions were NPA rebels and their brutal killing was a legitimate encounter with the NPA. The findings of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Commission on Human Rights say otherwise.

This has been the trend elsewhere. Twenty-three Bayan Muna coordinators in different provinces were killed. Like Hernandez, they were presented to the media as NPA fighters or supporters.

Already, Ms Macapagal has included "left-leaning" trade unions in the list of terrorists. If she could do this to workers who fight for wage increases and democratic rights, it would be easy for her to drag other groups making legitimate demands as terrorists.

Indeed, Ms Macapagal has completed the requisites for a "strong republic"—one that staunchly defends the government's and the US interests, and one that brazenly terrorizes the people.

Her rabid pro-US stance knows no bounds. The $55-million military assistance package promised by Colin Powell has given Ms Macapagal the boost to declare an all-out war against the rebel group. After the Sept. 11 attacks, the NPA has been included in the US list of terrorist groups. In fact, her cohorts in the military flaunt US financial support for the government's counter-insurgency campaign. At the proper time, the controversial Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) will be signed. In the coming months, the participation of US troops in actual combat operations against the NPA is not far-fetched.

—RONALYN V. OLEA, national president, College Editors Guild of the Phils., 812-A Basilio St., Sampaloc, Manila

Grand time playing cop

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is having a grand time playing cop. Some policemen want to become president; this President wants to become cop. Does she merely think poorly of her office, or is she up to something no good? She has trivialized the office, and made it dangerous too.

No police arrest is now complete unless and until Ms Macapagal is photographed with the suspects. She walks in after every successful police raid, receives suspects in Malacañang, goes down to the National Bureau of Investigation to assess the evidence and to the Department of Justice to witness the filing of charges. Some raids are even reenacted, to allow her to walk in and pose for the press.

Her playing cop has produced many bad things. First, it has distorted the nation's view of the presidency. She has confused everyone, and she herself seems confused. Thanks to her, one can no longer tell between a suspect and a foreign ambassador presenting their respective credentials to Her Excellency.

Ms Macapagal obviously believes she can govern, or pretend to govern, through the media. So she does everything for the headlines.

Thrice burned already for broadcasting the wrong information—first, on a falsely reported multinational pullout; second, on an alleged fugitive's surrender that never took place, and third, on a whistle-blower who was wrongly labeled as a suspect—she says her playing cop is an exercise in leadership. She does not say what idea of leadership requires her to turn Malacañang into a police precinct and reduce herself to a police chief. But she insists.

With the special interest she has taken in all those cases, one fears for the rights of the accused and of suspects. Her spokespersons argue the presumption of innocence is not breached, and that no laws or rights are violated.

Were that absolutely true, at least one law is violated. The law of good taste. It is neither a statute nor a constitutional provision, but it is part of the law of civilization and every civilized person has a duty to uphold it. Those who talk of building a strong republic must insist on it more than others.

This is our fear. What if, after everything shall have been said, Ms Macapagal turns out to be more dangerous than ludicrous? What do we do then?

In the last few days she has talked of waging all-out war against the communists. And from Utrecht, Jose Ma. Sison has responded in kind, talking of bombing power plants, among others. What happens now if the communists do indeed destroy any of those plants and cause total blackouts in all of Luzon? Would she or would she not call out the Armed Forces, suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus and declare martial law?

Or, what happens if her own troops bombed those plants themselves and blamed the blackouts and the resulting panic on the communists? Would she or would she not call out the Armed Forces, suspend the privilege of the writ, and declare martial law?

This fear is shared by many. And all of Manila is talking about it. Could she honestly tell us she is not playing; cop today so she could play el caudillo tomorrow?

—FRANCISCO S. TATAD, La Vista, Quezon City

Who speaks for DENR employees?

RECENT news reports said that 1,000 employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources rallied against Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez in front of the DENR Office in Quezon City.

Allow us to clarify that those employees, belonging to the DENR Employees Union (DENREU), could only gather 10 or so members, mostly officers of their union. The rest were merely spectators.

It is not true that DENR employees are demoralized by the issues raised against Alvarez. We are afraid that they could be misleading the public, making it appear that theirs is the collective voice of the 23,000-strong DENR work force. DENREU is an organization of self-proclaimed leaders who were not elected by the employees and who do not have support of the rank-and-file, contrary to their claims.

A Sept. 20, 2001 certification issued by the Department of Labor and Employment showed that DENREU is only one of three registered labor organizations in the department. The other two are Kalikasan and DENR-NCR Employees Association.

Moreover, an August 1999 certification from the Bureau of Labor Relations of the DOLE showed that DENREU merely operates in the DENR Central Office.

On Oct. 4, 2001, CSC Chair Karina Constantino-David wrote Kalikasan and DENREU to ask the two organizations to conduct a "certification election" to settle the question of who really represents the employees. Until today, DENREU has ignored this call.

DENREU officials should stick to the facts and real union issues. Kalikasan, a bonafide workers organization in the DENR, asserts that Alvarez still enjoys the support and respect of our member associations and unions from six bureaus, 16 regional offices and affiliates from the DENR Central Office because he listens to us and is open to discussion of issues pertaining to employees' welfare.

As of Aug. 1, 2002, more than 12,100 DENR employees nationwide or more than half of all employees have expressed support for Alvarez. The manifestos came from different offices, using different letterheads and words. How could the entire DENR workforce be threatened to sign them as DENREU claimed?

We have learned DENREU already refuses to hold a dialogue with the DENR management. While we laud their efforts to improve employee welfare, we resent their misuse of the organization. Unionism is the bonding within an organization to focus on advancing the rights and welfare of the employees. It is unfortunate that some of our colleagues in the DENR are blinded by deluded unionism.

—ALBERT MAGALANG, spokesperson and national vice president, Kalipunan ng mga Kawani para sa Sambayan at Nasyonalismo (Kalikasan)-Courage

Captive and hapless subdivision owners

YOUR Aug. 6 news item "Stakeholders' conference on protecting Laguna de Bay" caught the attention of a weary Filinvest Southpeak Homes resident.

We had the misfortune of building our dream house in a heavily polluted area. We Southpeak homeowners, as well as the no less than 10,000 families in the 10 adjoining villages, have been having problems with air pollution and swarms of flies coming from the large-scale commercial piggery operations whose waste finds its way into the creek that cuts right across the middle of Southpeak and ultimately to Laguna de Bay.

Added to this is the adjacent San Pedro garbage dumpsite located along a major thoroughfare, oozing contaminated water from piles of garbage into the same creek down into Laguna de Bay. What should be done?

—VICENTE E. CAMARA, Filinvest Southpeak Homes, R. Magsaysay Road, Bgy. San Antonio, San Pedro, Laguna

Arab not European slave 'raiders'

DEAN Jorge Bacobo's column titled "Colin Powell human being" was excellent I thought, but I would like to correct the statement in context of the slavery and the kidnapping in the 17th and 18th century of many Africans. He mentioned European slave raiders. Yes, there were many European slave traders but very few European slave "raiders." Slavery was started by some of the Arab nations and the majority of the slave raiders were Arabs working in cooperation with African leaders (chiefs). They then sold slaves to Europeans as well as to the countries in the Middle East. The sad fact is most nations of the world were guilty of this terrible trade in human lives but the majority of the actual selling of the slaves was begun mainly by Muslims raiders from the North. This is not to criticize Muslim nations now but simply to point out an unembellished truth of history.

—D. LEE NICHOLAS, d_nichols@i-manila.com.ph

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bush: No 'imminent war plan' for Iraq

WACO, Texas—President George W. Bush said Saturday the United States has no "imminent war plan" for Iraq so it is too early to consider whether Americans are prepared for potential US casualties.

In Washington, Vice President Dick Cheney told Iraqi dissidents the United States would insist upon a democratically elected government to replace Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Bush reiterated he has no deadline for achieving the long-standing US goal of forcing Saddam from power. He pledged that his administration would consult with allies and Congress as it contemplates options that include military force.

"The consultation process is a positive part of really allowing people to fully understand our deep concerns about this man, his regime and his desires to have weapons of mass destruction," Bush said at the start of a golf game on the fourth full day of his working vacation in Texas.

Asked whether the American people were prepared for US soldiers' deaths in any military campaign aimed at Saddam, Bush said, "I think that that presumes there's some kind of imminent war plan."

"What I do believe the American people understand is that weapons of mass destruction in the hands of leaders such as Saddam Hussein are very dangerous for ourselves, our allies," Bush said.

"They know that when we speak of making the world more safe, we do so not only in the context of al-Qaida and other terrorist groups, but nations that have proven themselves to be bad neighbors and bad actors," Bush said.

Saddam remains "an enemy until proven otherwise," he said.

Even before Bush took office, the United States has had a policy of seeking a new government in Baghdad. Bush has cited that policy often in recent days as the national debate on military action has intensified.

He has emphasized the consultation process, in an effort to cool what the White House views as a frenzy of speculation about possible military action.

Bush does not typically say that he would insist upon a democratically elected successor, as he has in the case of the Palestinians.

But on Saturday, Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld made clear it was a democracy the United States wanted. The message was delivered to more than a dozen Iraqi opposition leaders who visited the White House complex to discuss the situation. They also met with Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Very clearly, the vice president and the secretary of defense indicated they would support a democratic regime in Iraq," said Sharif Ali of the Iraqi National Congress, a leading opposition figure.

"They would not support replacing one dictator with another and in the eventuality of military action, that the United States will not carry out military action to replace one dictator with another," he said.

He added: "We are very optimistic that they will do something to effect regime change."

There was no immediate comment from Cheney's office or the Pentagon.

A White House official said the desire for a democratically elected government in Iraq has been implicit in the demands for new leadership.

Bush has threatened Iraq with unspecified consequences if UN weapons inspectors, who left the country ahead of US-British airstrikes in December 1998, are not allowed to return.

The Iraqi parliament said Saturday it was still waiting for Congress to reply to its offer to inspect suspected weapons sites in the country, the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

The White House dismissed the offer, a response brushed off by Parliament Speaker Sadoun Hammadi. "The Iraqi National Assembly has sent the invitation to US lawmakers, not to the US administration, and we are still waiting for an answer from them," he said. *AP*

Big weapons cache seized in Jalalabad

JALALABAD, Afghanistan—Police raided two buildings in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday, seizing explosives, heavy weapons and ammunition two days after a deadly explosion killed at least 14 people and injured about 90.

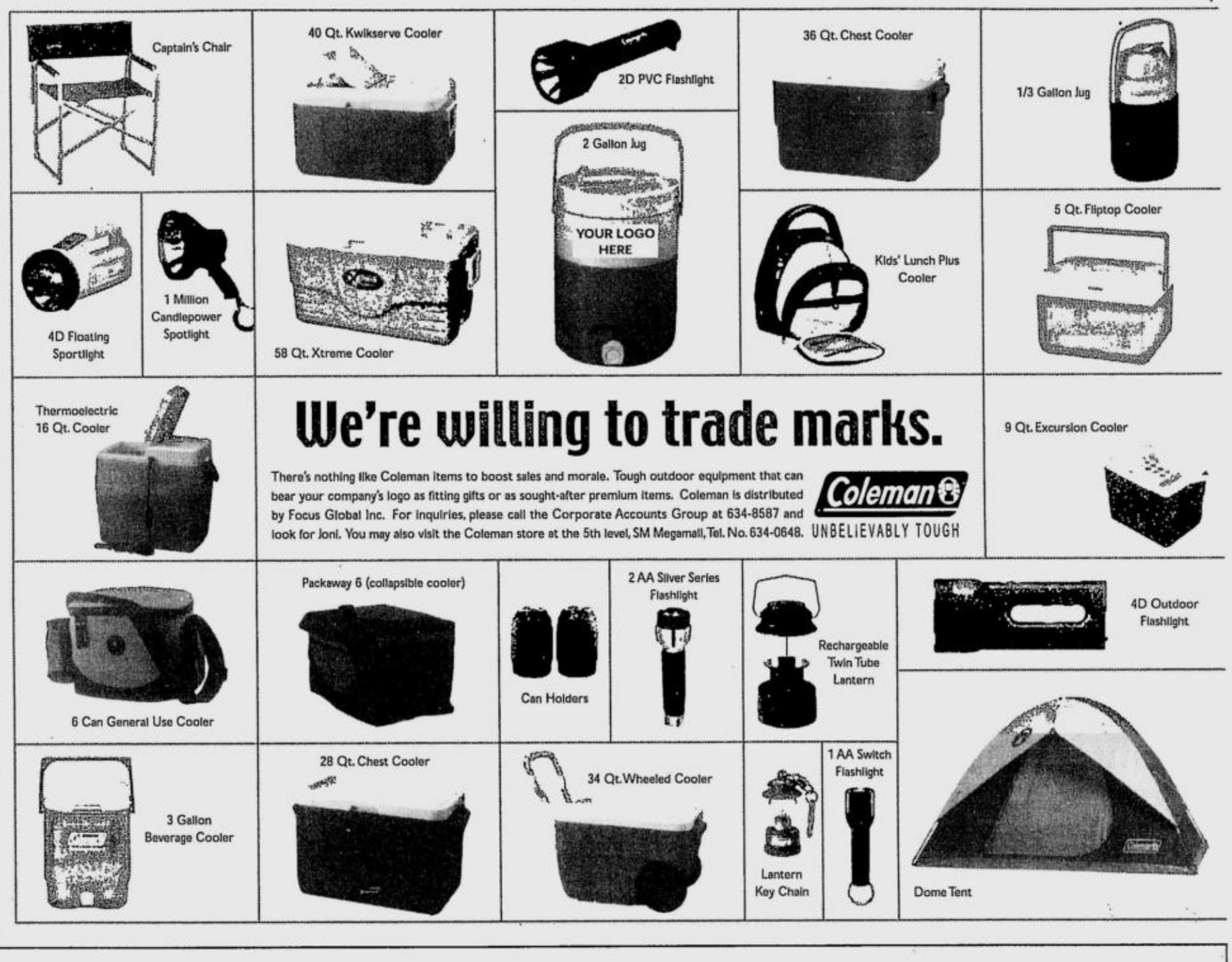
Some senior officials said they still suspected the Friday blast in Jalalabad was set off by either Taliban or al-Qaida forces although Foreign Minister Abdullah said it was an accident.

Haji Ajab Shah, the police inspector general for Nangarhar province, said the first raid on a house in Acheen, 60 km east of Jalalabad, turned up explosives, mortar shells, 54 boxes of machine gun ammunition and rocket-propelled grenades. He said the men living in the house escaped.

The second raid was on a building in Jalalabad's shoe market, where 15 kinds of explosive devices and accessories were discovered, Shah said. The owners of the store were arrested and were being questioned about possible links to the Taliban and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, he added.

Both groups are still active in eastern Afghanistan, Shah said, where the population is mostly Pashtun and suspicious of the multiethnic central government in the capital, Kabul. Most of al-Qaida's main training bases were located in eastern Afghanistan, which borders Pakistan.

Shah also said that authorities had not ruled out the possibility that an explosion at an industrial warehouse was caused by a terrorist's bomb. One of the injured employees at the Afghan Construction and Logistical Unit has been arrested and is being interrogated, he said. *AP*



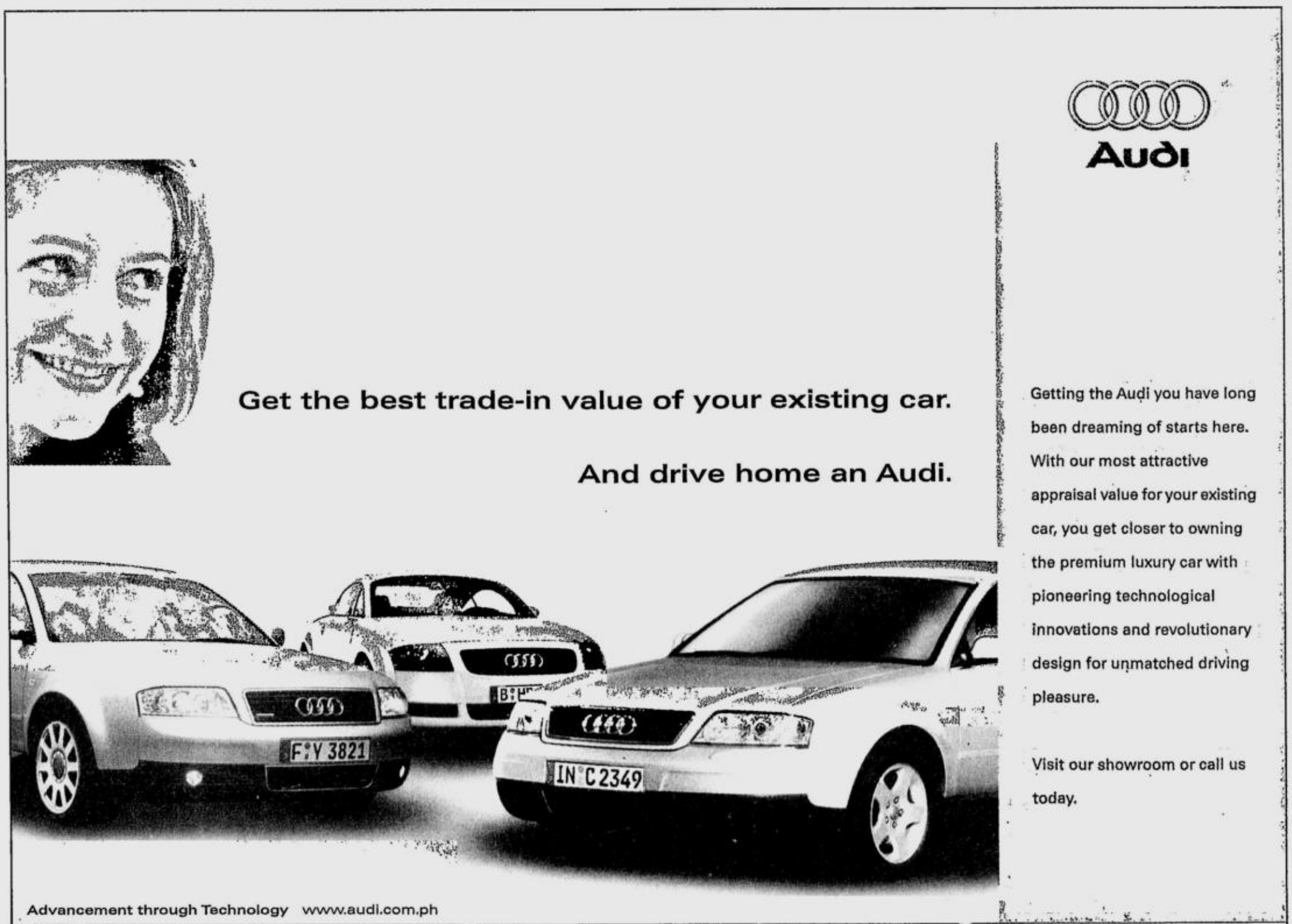
Taiwan chief calls for unity

TAIPEI—President Chen Shui-bian on Sunday called for Taiwanese unity to meet the military threat from China but shied away from the tough talk that ratcheted up tensions between the rivals earlier this month.

But at the same forum, former President Lee Teng-hui warned that Taiwan might be "wiped out by China" unless it stood firm in the belief that Taiwan was a separate country to the communist mainland.

Chen angered China when he said in a telecast Aug. 3 that there is "one country on each side" of the 160-km Taiwan Strait. Though he later said he meant Taiwan and China were "equal sovereigns," Beijing viewed the remarks as an assertion of Taiwanese independence and issued a stream of military threats via its state-run media.

Since the two sides split amid a civil war in 1949, China has claimed Taiwan as part of its territory. *AP*



Israeli troops track, kill Palestinian

JERUSALEM—Israeli troops tracked down and shot dead a Palestinian militant Sunday after he opened fire on Israeli road workers in the northern Gaza Strip, wounding one of them, a military source said.

The Palestinian gunman hit the Israeli worker near the Jewish settlement of Dugit, and the workers suffered at least five bullet wounds in his arms and legs, a hospital spokesperson said.

Israeli troops then pursued the gunman and saw him enter a house in the nearby Palestinian area of Beit Lahiya, the Army said. The gunman fired on the Israeli soldiers, who shot back and killed him, the Army said.

The military also said it found a hidden bomb on the trail leading to the house where the gunman fled.

In a shooting at a Jewish settlement in the West Bank on Saturday night, a Palestinian gunman cut through a wire fence and shot dead an Israeli woman and wounded her husband before the attacker was shot dead by Israeli soldiers, the Army said.

After using wire cutters on the fence, the gunman crawled through the opening into the Mechora settlement in the Jordan Valley. He fired on a car, seriously wounding the Israeli driver as he arrived at his home. The driver's wife was fatally shot as she came out of the house.

The attacker was then shot dead by soldiers in the settlement, the Army said.

The couple's two children, one aged 3 and the other 3 months, were rescued by neighbors while the shooting was still going on, residents of the settlement said.

"We drove to scene of the incident," Eli Lavi, a resident of the settlement, told Israel Radio. "We found her lying on the lawn and her husband inside the car wounded. We tried to get into the house, but there was shooting. Then, within seconds, her brother and a friend jumped out, ran in and got the babies out of the house." *AP*

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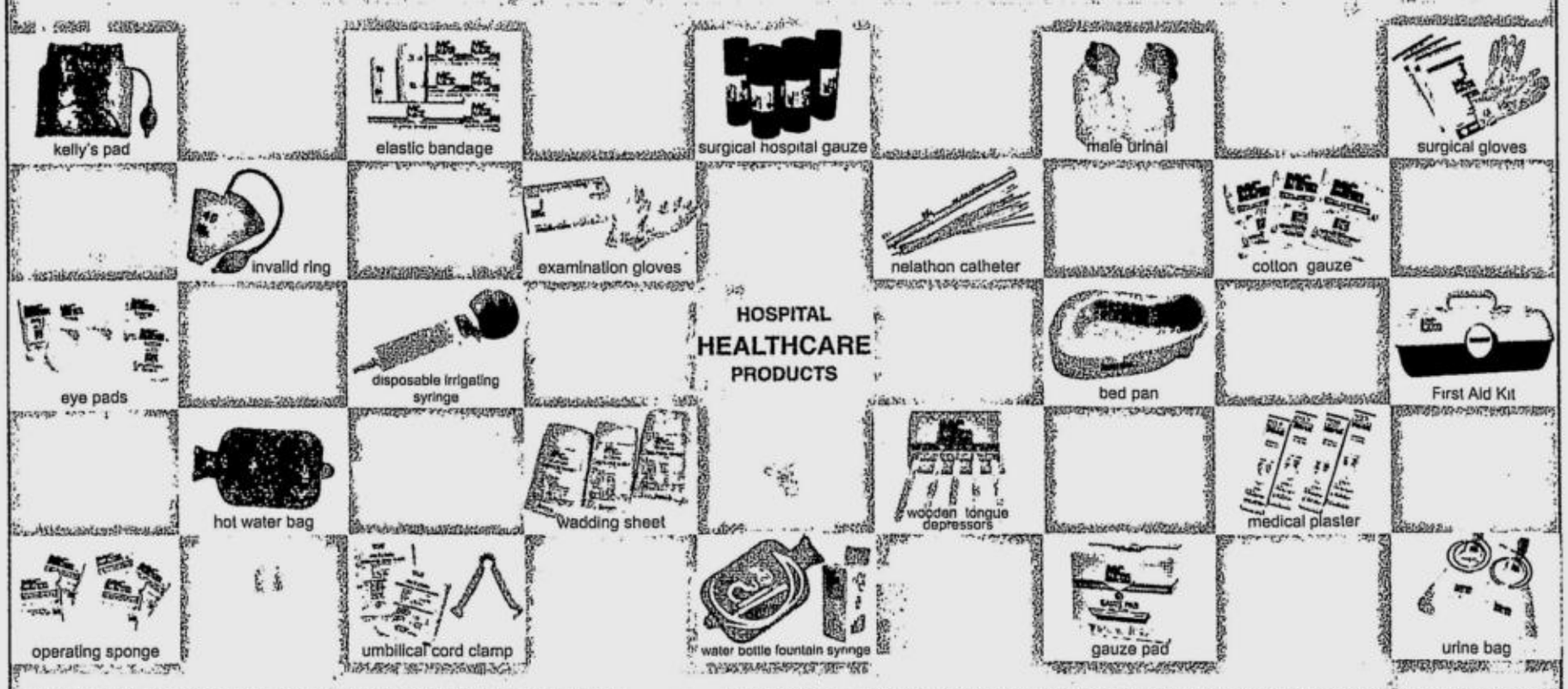

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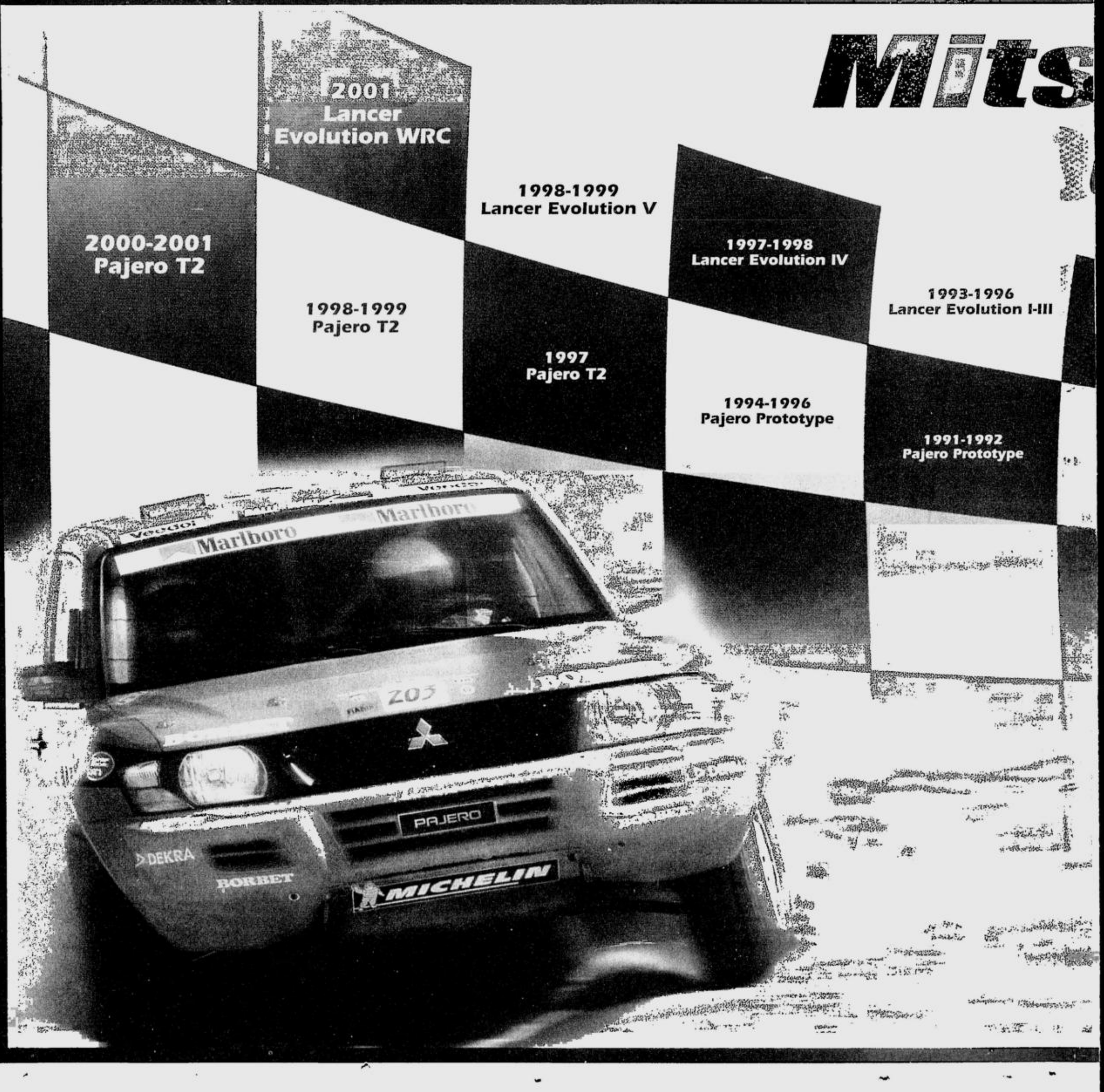

Indon solons hail Charter amendment expelling military from Parliament

JAKARTA—Indonesia's highest legislature ended its most far-reaching session in decades on Sunday when legislators applauded constitutional changes to expel the military from Parliament and allow voters to elect the head of state directly two years from now.

But some commentators warned that the sprawling Southeast Asian nation still had far to go before it could become a true democracy, saying behind-the-scenes power remains with the generals and an entrenched political elite.

"These changes are just cosmetic, and will not alter political life in any meaningful way," said Arbi Sanit, a prominent analyst and university professor.

Lawmakers also rejected noisy calls for Sharia law to be introduced across the world's most populous Muslim country—bolstering Indonesia's role as a moderate Islamic bulwark against religious extremism targeted by the US-backed war on terror.

Although she has not commented on the reforms, they will probably strengthen the hand of popular President Megawati Sukarnoputri and see her voted in for a second five-year term in 2004.

On Saturday, the 700-member People's Consultative Assembly agreed to abolish by 2004 the 38 unelected seats reserved for the security forces.

The seats were granted under the dictatorship of Gen. Suharto after he seized power from Megawati's father, Sukarno, in the 1960s and ruled until pro-democracy protests in 1998.

"The (military) is now out of practical politics," declared Amien Rais, the assembly's speaker who oversaw debate on the changes.

Representatives of the military have themselves been anxious to withdraw from Parliament because their presence has been a lightning rod for domestic and foreign critics of the armed forces, which has long been accused of human rights abuses.

Instead, senior generals are now likely to wield their power and influence in other ways, particularly in private dialogues with Megawati, said Dede Oetomo, a professor at Airlangga University in Surabaya, Indonesia's second largest city.

"It's probably easier to do it at the palace than at Parliament," he said. "There is no light yet for Indonesia at the end of the tunnel."

Megawati needed the generals' support last year to oust her predecessor Abdurrahman Wahid, who had made enemies among the Army brass by trying to assert civilian control over the military. Her administration has abandoned those reforms.

The generals' political confidence has been further boosted by US attempts to recruit Indonesia into its international anti-terrorism coalition.

Washington wants to restore military-to-military ties and financial support severed after Indonesian troops laid waste to East Timor in 1999 and committed massive human rights violations when it voted to break free of Indonesian rule.

Last week, Secretary of State Colin Powell visited Jakarta and announced a new $50 million program to assist Indonesia's security forces in the anti-terrorism struggle.

The plan comes despite criticisms from Sen. Patrick Leahy, the Vermont Democrat who sponsored the law ending ties. Robert Gelbard, who served as US ambassador here until last year, has also argued against new military links.

Indria Samego, a political observer from Jakarta's Institute of Science, said the changes adopted Saturday, particularly direct presidential elections, were "an experiment" which could easily be undone. "We have to see how they are implemented," Samego said.

Until now the assembly, not ordinary voters, have determined who is president.

Megawati's father founding father, Sukarno, included that when he drew up the original constitution in 1945 and further strengthened the presidency in 1959.

After toppling Sukarno in 1966 amid political turmoil, Suharto used the same constitutional provisions to cement his power. For 32 authoritarian years, Suharto had a strangle hold over the assembly, which unquestionably and repeatedly re-elected him into the top job. *AP*

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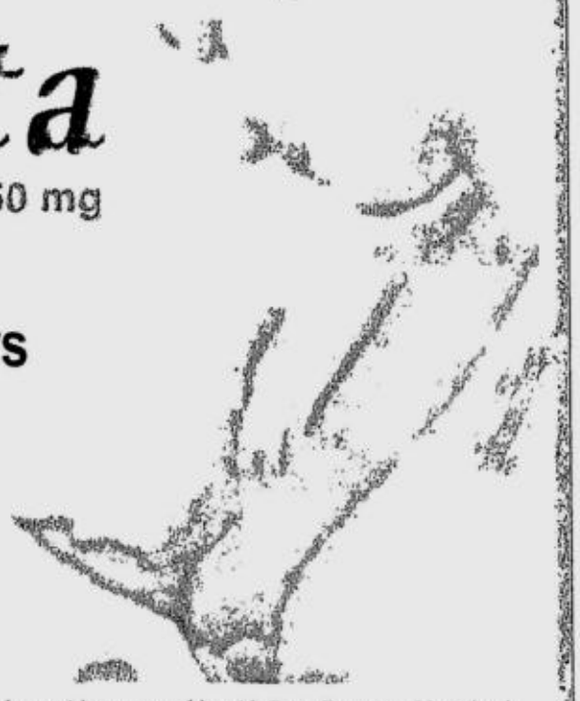

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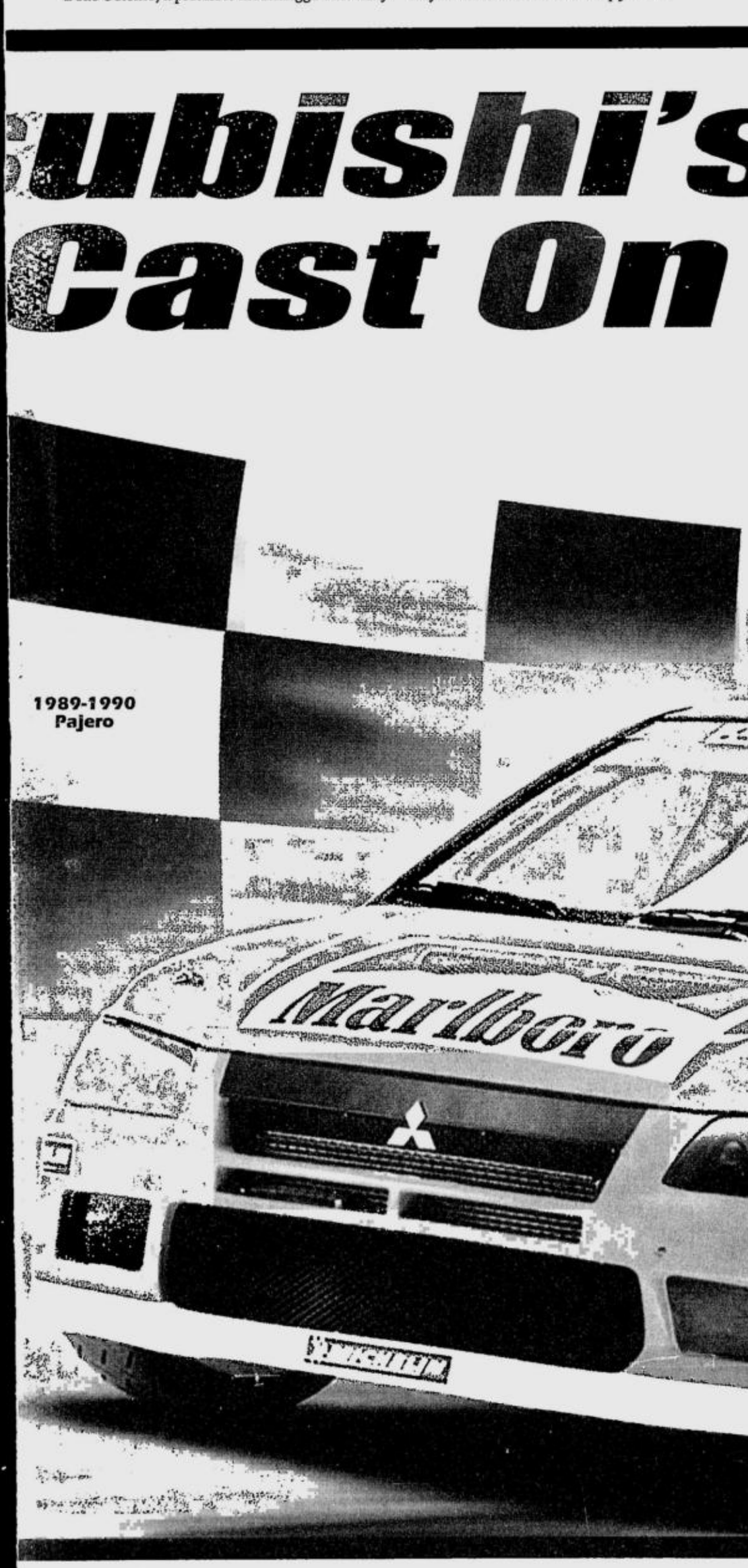

Japanese drop out in droves from new ID system

TOKYO—Ever since their computerized ID system switched on a few days ago, Japanese citizens have dropped out in droves from what many resent as a "big brother" monitoring of the people.

The dozens of protest groups that have popped up are planning a rally Monday at which demonstrators will show their outrage by ripping up the papers being sent out by the government to assign every citizen an 11-digit number.

"To start with, giving a number to people is a violation of our individual human rights," said Eiji Yoshimura, one of the protesters. "We have absolutely nothing to gain from this system."

Several local governments have refused to participate in the system, which began last Monday. Yokohama, a Tokyo suburb of 3.4 million people, is giving its residents a choice of hooking up or not.

The government is assigning each of Japan's 126 million citizens an ID number that will link into a nationwide computer system. The idea is to streamline Japan's cumbersome bureaucracy by making it easy to obtain basic personal information during administrative procedures.

Critics worry about loss of privacy, and some fear government officials will misuse the information.

The disenchantment some Japanese express toward the registry underlines a deep, although often hidden, distrust of government that is surprisingly common in a nation known for orderly, conformist behavior.

"I don't especially enjoy being called by a number. It feels like a prisoner," said Yasuyoshi Ban, a 60-year-old truck driver.

One worry is the computer system will be vulnerable to computer hackers. An even bigger fear is the potential for abuse by someone inside the government using the stored personal information for improper ends, such as harassing dissidents. Some people worry about criminals stealing identities.

Eventually, the new 'Juki Net" will give bureaucrats access to information now contained in unconnected computer systems, such as the family registry, social security file and residence record.

The national government, which has made electronic governance part of its policy, spent years preparing Juki Net, which is shorthand for "residents' network" in Japanese.

For now, only a person's name, address, gender and date of birth are stored under their ID number. Next August, people will receive a card embedded with a computer chip, allowing instant identification.

Supporters promise the card will make it easier in the future to get passports and social security benefits.

So far, there is only one tiny benefit—it allows people to obtain proof of residence papers from any government office in the country. Such documents, which are essential for such matters as opening bank accounts, now can be picked up only at a person's neighborhood office.

Juki Net, which costs $ 157 million a year to run, has been hit with glitches in the early going.

The city of Naha on Okinawa had problems getting the system started for two days. Twins and other people with the same birthday in a single household got wiped off the records in the central city of Daito. In Sanda, 23 people with foreign spouses received papers showing them married to random Japanese residents.

Central government officials shrugged that off as growing pains.

"Everything is progressing smoothly," said Naoki Nagumo, an official at the public management ministry. "The glitches aren't causing bodily harm and they certainly aren't dangerous. It's the first time we are trying this system out."

Skeptics aren't convinced.

The government had promised to have legislation protecting privacy and outlawing the abuse of personal information when Juki Net went into operation. But the law has yet to pass Parliament.

One protest website offers a download of a figure peering desperately out of a bar-code prison with the slogan "Ten digits for cows; 11 digits for people." It's a sarcastic reference to a state ID program for beef herds that began after mad cow disease was found last fall.

Attempts by the authorities to ensure food safety have been widely criticized as inept, and Juki Net's critics are not too sure the government is serious about protecting their privacy. *AP*

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1st Reading: Ezk 1:2-5, 24-28
Gospel: Mt 17:22-27

While Jesus was in Galilee with the Twelve, he said to them, "The Son of Man will be delivered into human hands, and they will kill him. But he will rise on the third day." The Twelve were deeply grieved.

When they returned Peter and asked him, "Does your master pay the temple tax?" He answered, "Certainly."

Peter then entered the house, but immediately Jesus asked him, "What do you think, Simon? Who pay taxes or tributes to the kings of the earth: their sons or the other people?" Peter replied, "The others." And Jesus told him, "The sons, then, are tax-free. But so as not to offend these people, go to the sea, throw in a hook and open the mouth of the first fish you catch. You will find a coin in it, take it and let it pay for you and for me."

Commentary

One finds three elements present in today's gospel: the announcement of an approaching suffering, the need of paying the temple taxes, and the need to avoid scandals among people. This threefold word teaches us to tackle our relationship with ourselves especially while facing suffering: our relationship with God and our faith community symbolized by the temple; and our relationship with others, exercising an exquisite and tactful behavior to avoid hurting others' conscience. The mere announcement of an oncoming suffering makes us feel sad, even if it is followed by the assurance that everything will end all right. We tend to focus our attention on the negative, in this way increasing our pain. In our dealings with God and our faith community we are to act freely, though exercising prudence "as not to offend these people" who may have different way of thinking.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—**Res judicata**—Res judicata means a matter adjudged, a thing judicially acted upon or decided; a thing or matter settled by judgment. In res judicata, the judgment in the first action is considered conclusive as to every matter offered and received therein, as to any other admissible matter which might have been offered for that purpose, and all other matters that could have been adjudged therein. For a claim of res judicata to prosper, the following requisites must concur: (1) there must be a final judgment or order; (2) the court rendering it must have jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties; and (3) it must be a judgment or order on the merits; and (4) there must be, between the two cases, identity of parties, subject matter and causes of action. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez, Manila Electric Company v. Philippine Consumers Foundation, Inc., G. R. No. 101783, January 23, 2002]

Digest by R. B. Vera

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
The WORLD

Abusive priests isolated from kids but not expelled

PHILADELPHIA—Leaders of Roman Catholic religious orders in the United States have decided that sexually abusive priests should be kept away from children but not expelled, a less restrictive plan than the zero-tolerance policy bishops adopted earlier this summer.

Victim advocates immediately criticized Saturday's plan, saying it gives orders too much freedom in disciplining guilty priests. They also noted the policy was not mandatory, since the conference does not have the authority to make the plan binding.

The Conference of Major Superiors of Men, an association of heads of groups such as Benedictines and Jesuits, also acknowledged their members had sometimes failed to sufficiently discipline errant clergy in the past.

"We are deeply sorry for that and publicly apologize for whenever and however we have failed victims or families," they said in the document, which won overwhelming approval by the leaders. "These religious priests or brothers who have molested children or adolescents have broken the bonds of trust invested in them. We feel this hurt deeply."

The vote came at the conclusion of the organization's annual meeting, where spiritual leaders discussed how the abuse policy American bishops approved two months ago in Dallas could be adapted for their religious communities. About 15,000 of the 46,000 US priests belong to the orders.

Conference leaders, drawing on the findings of experts on sex offenders, said they believe some abusers can recover and serve the Church in administrative jobs far from young people.

In their document Saturday, the religious orders pledged the men would undergo treatment and remain under close watch. They also added language, suggested during the floor debate, that anyone who violated restrictions set by their orders could be dismissed.

The plan also creates review boards to monitor how their communities handle offenders.

Some victim advocates have demanded that all errant clergy be ousted from the priesthood.

"This is not a new chapter for religious orders in this crisis. This is the same story we've heard before," said Mark Serrano, a national board member of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests. He said the conference should have agreed to let prosecutors scour the orders' personnel files to see if some offenders had escaped punishment.

Like the bishops, religious communities will bar abusers from any positions that require face-to-face contact with parishioners.

But the bishops decided to remove offenders from all church work and, in some cases, from the priesthood entirely. *AP*

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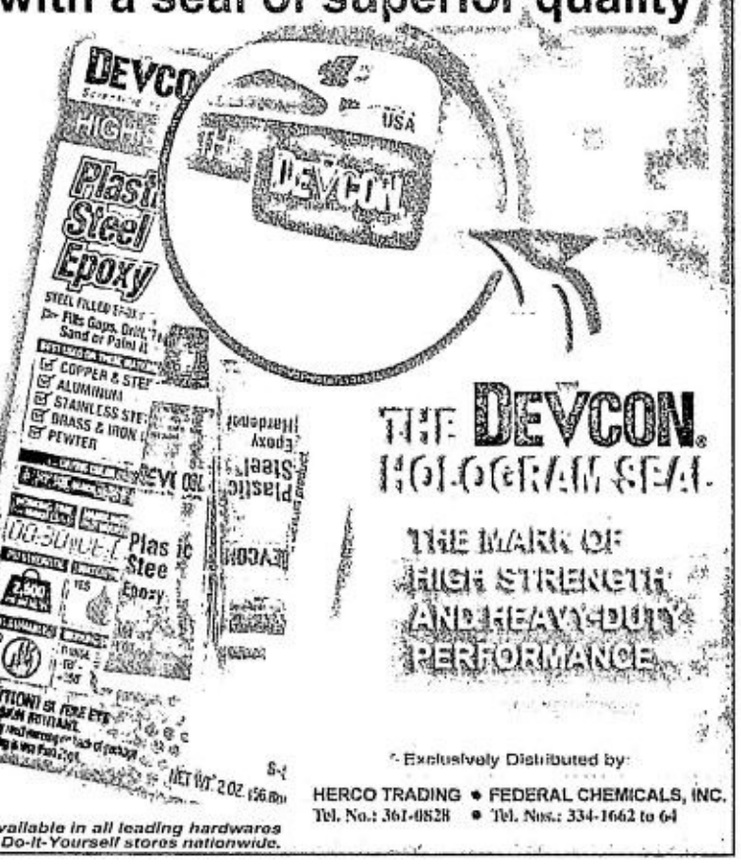

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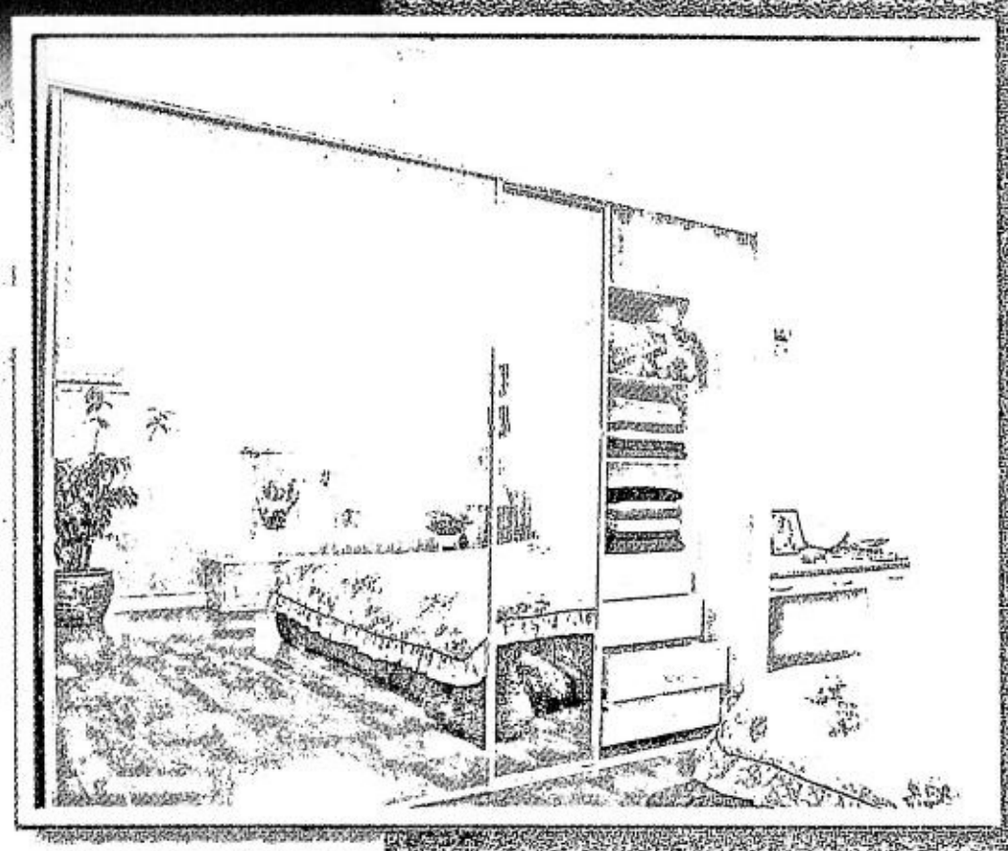

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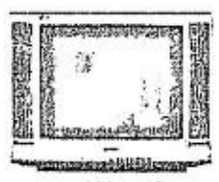
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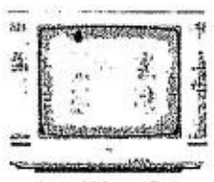
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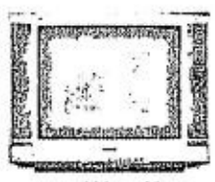
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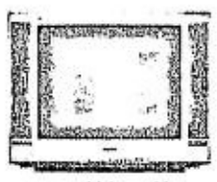
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Mayor says 'jueteng' source of funds

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—A mayor in a central Pangasinan town said he regrets the police crackdown on jueteng in the province because illegal gambling is a major source of social funds of local officials.

The mayor, who requested not to be named, said even President Macapagal-Arroyo gets her social funds through gambling—from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., which operates casinos and lottery in the country.

"The only difference is that the Pagcor operates legally while jueteng operates illegally. But money for the social funds is generated through gambling," the mayor said.

He admitted that mayors accept jueteng money from operators but this is "returned" to the people who daily troop to their offices and houses for financial help.

"Everyday we are asked for money for 'KBL' or *kasal* (marriage), *binyag* (baptism), *libing* (funeral) and solicitations in all forms from civic and religious organizations. People ask us for money for fiestas, sports activities, hospital fees. medicines, donations. Name it, the mayors are asked for it," he added.

For all these, the mayor has to hand out an average of P10,000 daily, he said.

"What we receive from jueteng, we return to the people," he said.

The mayor said local chief executives receive a monthly salary of P20,000 and some rely on their salaries and have no other sources of income to provide for their constituents' personal needs.

"It's good if the mayor has a business and can easily dip into his profits. But for one who is a 'plain' mayor, where will he get the money? A mayor is paid only P20,000 a month so it would be difficult to meet his financial obligations to the people. Or should he steal from government coffers?" he said.

The mayor also defended the illegal numbers game, saying it helps generate employment among residents.

In every barangay, jueteng operators hire at least 10 residents as bet collectors, he said.

"So if you have 20 barangays, there are 200 people employed earning an average of P200 daily. They also get a 10 percent commission if somebody wins," he said.

Another advantage of jueteng, he said, is that it does not take much time from the bettors. He explained that a bettor merely selects a number, gives his money to the collector and then goes around doing his activities. Later, he just asks the collector if his or her combination won or not.

IN San Simon, Pampanga, jueteng employees go about their business wherever a bettor takes interest in gambling.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

"It's not like mahjong when the gambler sits for hours or even days on the mahjong table," the mayor said.

The mayor also dismissed reports that jueteng operators rig jueteng draws, claiming these are done fairly.

"*Parehas* (It's fair). Before, the operators cheated but now they don't because no one will place their bets anymore," he said.

The mayor, however, did not confirm or deny that he was handling jueteng operations in his town.

"The police can stop jueteng if they wanted to," he told the INQUIRER.

An informal survey on jueteng in central Pangasinan conducted by the Lingayen-Dagupan archdiocese showed that jueteng operations are waning.

The survey, coursed through the different parishes in the archdiocese's 15 towns and two cities, was conducted from July 1 to 16.

It showed that jueteng is rampant only in Mangaldan town and in some villages in Malasiqui town.

"(We hope) that the whole Pangasinan would be free of jueteng. This illegal numbers game has long deceived bettors," said Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

37 nabbed in Angeles in 'jueteng' crackdown

ANGELES CITY—Police stepped up the anti-illegal gambling campaign here, arresting at least 37 suspected jueteng managers and collectors in a raid on areas controlled by suspected jueteng financier Melchor Caluag last week.

The intelligence operatives and policemen also raided Caluag's jueteng den on Dona Josefa Street in Barangay Malabanias, a PNP report said.

The report said more than P4,000 in bets were seized from the raid. The suspects have been turned over to city jail officials after a prosecutor recommended their continued detention. They face charges of violating the anti-illegal gambling law.

Formerly a territory held by suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, Angeles City has fallen under the control of Caluag since last year, police said. Caluag reportedly nets an average of P2 million in bets daily here.

The raid came more than a week after two courts ordered the arrest of Caluag, now barangay chair facing anti-illegal gam-

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NBI exhumes 4 massacre victims

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Forensic experts of the National Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday exhumed four bodies of victims of a massacre alleged perpetrated by the victims' husband and father.

The bodies were exhumed after the court allowed the motion of the prosecution lawyers to gather tissue samples from the victims that would link suspect Danilo Afalla to the killings.

Afalla, 42, is facing trial for multiple parricide charges before the regional trial court branch 27 here for the slaying in April last year of his wife Aperacion, 38, and their children Cheenie Claire, 15, Mark Anthony, 11, and Michael Angelo, 5.

Acting on a motion by prosecutor Emerson Turingan, Judge Jose Rosales of the regional trial court allowed the exhumation of the bodies of Aperacion and her three children at the municipal cemetery here.

"The DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) results might shed light for the proper disposition of the case," Rosales said.

Lawyer Norman Taloza, NBI District chief here, said the bone tissues will be tested and compared with blood samples taken by police from the site where the victims' bodies were found and from the car, a Mitsubishi Adventure believed to be used in transporting the victims' bodies here.

The samples will also be compared with the bloodied bed sheets found in the vehicle and Afalla's bloodied shirt taken from his apartment in the US when he was arrested there last year. ***Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Vaccinate cattle, Bohol farmers told

TAGBILARAN CITY—Farmers in Bohol have been warned to have their cattle immediately vaccinated and to take special care to prevent them from contracting hemorragic septicemia.

Dr. Stella Marie Lapiz, Provincial Veterinarian Office chief, said her office has received reports that carabaos and cows have been getting sick with hemorragic septicemia in some towns in the province.

She said they were closely monitoring the situation because current weather conditions make cattle vulnerable to hemorragic septicemia.

"The disease usually occurs when there are sudden changes in the climatic conditions," Lapiz said.

The provincial veterinarian said hemorragic septicemia comes in three forms.

It could be a respiratory ailment, where the ailing livestock develop colds and manifest excessive saliva excretions.

The second is in digestive form where the afflicted cattle suffer from loose bowel movement.

"The third one is in acute form, meaning the sick cattle dies without warning," she said.

Lapiz said that *pasteurella*, a soil-borne bacteria, is the carrier of the disease.

She said based on laboratory tests, excess white blood cells indicate infection.

Cattle immediately given antibiotics responded favorably, she said.

Aside from vaccination, she said farmers should not expose their cattle to extreme temperatures. ***Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Rise in mental cases alarms Baguio doctors

By Jovelyn Reyes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Work-related stress common among workers in urban areas has been causing different types of mental disorders among residents of the Cordillera and Ilocos, health experts here said.

Dr. Ma. Asela Casem, coordinator of the mental health unit of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, said the hospital has been admitting an average of about 9,000 patients a year since 1997.

"We notice that there has been a steady increase of mental health patients since 1997 (and) the increase is really alarming," Casem told reporters in a forum here on Wednesday.

She did not provide the percentage of increase in the number of patients yearly, but said their figures before 1997 indicated that their patients did not reach 1,000.

The BGHMC is the only hospital in the region that has a mental health unit.

Casem said at least half of their 9,000 patients yearly are severely insane "and are the violent ones."

She said the other half are patients with mood disorders (the initial stage of insanity and common among urban workers), with psychotic problems and with unusual behavior common among drug users.

She, however, said most of the "severely insane patients" do not come from the Cordillera but from the Ilocos region while patients with mood disorders are usually from cities like Baguio and San Fernando in La Union.

The BGHMC, according to Casem, admits every month more than 50 patients, 5 percent of whom are minors.

The youngest patient was a year-old girl. Casem said the girl, who was admitted last year, was physically abused by her parents and showed psychotic problems triggered by trauma.

"To save minors from early mental problems, the government should establish a 'parenting' school in hospitals to teach parents to handle children and family members, especially those who show abnormal mood swings," she said.

A World Health Organization study showed that stress from family and work causes mental disorder.

The study, according to her, suggested that "opening the lines of communication with family members, frequent smiling and taking an afternoon nap" lessen the risk of mental disorder.

Last month, at least 40 patients were admited at the BGHMC's mental health center. "(But) they were just patients with severe cases of mental disorder. There are still a number of those who were treated as out-patients," she said.

Casem said the mental health unit has only 10 nurses, with one nurse per shift or a nurse-patient ratio of 1:40.

City lawyer in trouble for private practice

TANJAY CITY, Negros Oriental—The National Bureau of Investigation has recommended to the Ombudsman in the Visayas the prosecution of Tanjay City legal officer Roy Lozano for engaging in private practice after he was employed by City Hall in violation of the Revised Penal Code.

NBI-Dumaguete chief Pedro Diaz said Lozano appeared in court at least four times even after he was appointed city legal officer on July 2, 2001.

Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

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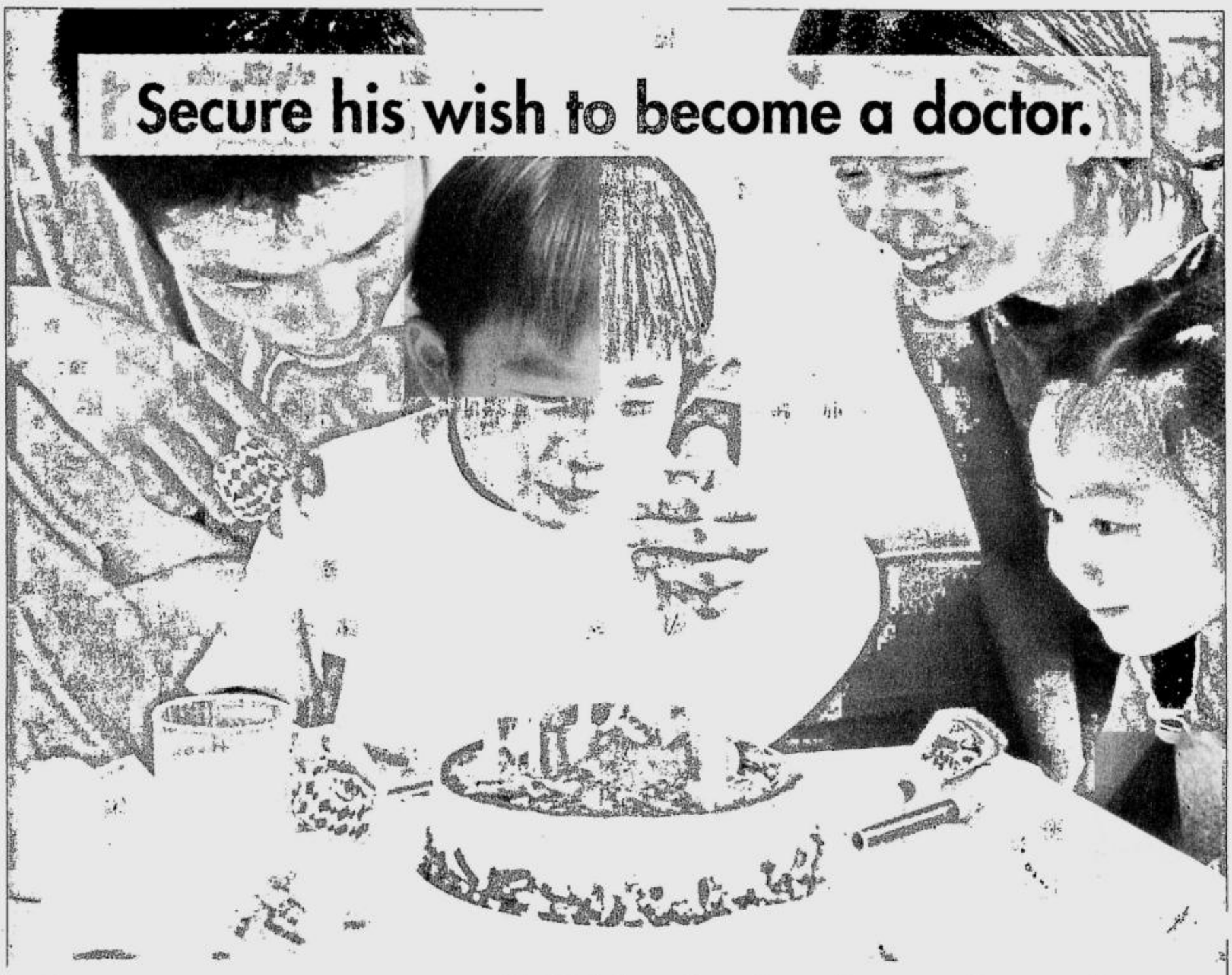

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3	3.00%	P 2,500.00	P 30,000.00
4	3.25%	P 2,708.33	P 32,500.00
5	3.50%	P 2,916.67	P 35,000.00
6	3.75%	P 3,125.00	P 37,500.00
7	4.00%	P 3,333.33	P 40,000.00
8	4.25%	P 3,541.67	P 42,500.00
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Church hospital defends self on negligence raps

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, which owns the Maria Reyna Hospital (MRH) that allegedly refused to attend to a stabbing victim for lack of a P10,000 down payment, has broken its silence and defended its refusal to admit the victim.

"The Board (of Trustee) is convinced that the hospital did its best and particularly there was no negligence on the part of the doctors who attended to the case," Msgr. Rey Monsanto, the archdiocese's spokesperson, said.

"We have heard the reports from the hospital and the board discounted negligence. Indeed it has done its best to serve its clients and save life," he added.

But Monsanto said he would not give "further statements since the cases have been filed in the courts."

Last week, two cases have been filed before the Regional Trial Court here against MRH. Both cases claimed damages worth P2.2 million.

The MRH is also charged with violating the Hospital Licensure Act. This was filed by the widow of Editho Magsalay, who was brought to the MRH after he was stabbed on July 18.

Magsalay's wife said the hospital refused to operate on her husband because she failed to pay an initial P10,000. Magsalay stayed at MRH for two hours before he was transferred to the Northern Mindanao Medical Center (NMMC). He died the next day.

Dr. Jovencito Roa, head of the NMMC's emergency room, said Magsalay, when transferred to the hospital, suffered from "excessive loss of blood (that) caused his death."

Another P1.2-million damage suit was filed against MRH by Cerilo and Marilou Bautista, parents of Cheryl Marie, who died of bronco pneumonia five days after she was brought to the hospital on July 2.

Cheryl Marie was earlier diagnosed with dengue.

Alejandro Jose Pallugna, lawyer for the Magsalays and Bautistas, said the families would file criminal cases soon.

The Commission on Human Rights said it was also investigating the complaints.

Last week, the city council's committee on health invited representatives of the MRH for an inquiry. The MRH failed to send its representatives to the council's inquiry.

Sr. Cecilia Fos of the Sisters of St. Paul de Charters, the administrator of MRH, wrote in her letter to the council's committee on health: "The hospital held strong reservations on the impartiality of the proceedings." *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao will experience rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 23°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 25°	Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 23°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 24°
Tacloban	Rains	Hi 29°	Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/12/02

DENR takes over gold mountain amid rising tension

From page A1

Brillantes, who reportedly still owns JB Mining Corp.

The Diwalwal conflict—precipitated by conflicting claims on the gold-rich area—had already claimed the lives of 60 people, including a Tagum City judge who was killed after he ruled in favor of a cease-and-desist order (CDO) issued by Brillantes against small-scale mining.

The PNP said it was Brillantes' CDO which sparked the heightened unrest in the area.

Ebdane committed the PNP's full support to the DENR takeover of mining operations in Diwalwal. But he said the Armed Forces of the Philippines should also be involved, noting the large Army contingent in the area and the increasing presence of communist rebels who allegedly exact "revolutionary" taxes from the miners.

The PNP chief said the firearms and explosives law must be strictly enforced in the area.

Alvarez initially intended to enter the Diwalwal area yesterday and personally serve the stoppage order, but he was informed that his arrival might further raise tension there. He was to be welcomed by around 5,000 small-scale miners fighting the big mining companies.

Closure order

Alvarez and Ebdane will meet again tonight, with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu, to iron out steps in implementing the closure order and allow the government to put in place emergency measures in the area.

A technical working group would be created and deployed to undertake a technical assessment of the situation and formulate a mine management plan for sustainable utilization of mine resources, the DENR secretary said.

With the government takeover, the department will be declaring not only the 729-hectare active mining area but 8,100 hectares, which includes areas covered by the Timber License Agreement (TLA) of Paper Industries Corp. of the Philippines (Picop) as mineral reservation.

Alvarez said Picop was lording over the area, preventing the entry of trucks and bulldozers used by small-scale miners while allowing JB Mining Corp.'s trucks and bulldozers to pass unhampered.

The Diwalwal gold-rush area has been the site of unauthorized small-scale mining and labor-intensive medium-scale mining since 1983. The operations involve thousands of miners, local entrepreneurs and service providers.

"In the meantime, there will be no movement . . . everything must stop, including movement of ore stocks in the area. We will manage the full operation of Diwalwal and have an equitable distribution of wealth," Alvarez told reporters.

State option

With the government takeover, he said the exploration permit of the Southeast Mining Corp. (SEM), in which Picop owners are stakeholders, would be canceled.

PROTESTERS watch helplessly at the body of Roberto Zamora, a miner who died of suffocation in a fumigation incident in Mt. Diwata, after a military armored personnel carrier ran over its coffin at their barricade in Mawab, Compostela Valley. EDGAR ARO

Everybody lacks the legitimacy to operate in the area, Alvarez said. "The state as owner of the property exercises supreme option . . . to take over the property," he said.

"We will acknowledge the rights of every citizen over the natural wealth of the government. We will respect the small miners. *Sila naman ang nauna diyan. May karapatan ang bawat isa, hindi luluhod lang sa isang tao* (They were there first. Everyone has a right, and won't kneel before one person)," Alvarez added.

He said it would not take long to reopen the Diwalwal operations.

Alvarez's order also prohibits the transport, storage and use of explosives, explosive accessories and chemical substances.

In addressing environmental problems, the DENR secretary said mineral processing plants would be established under a common tailings disposal system.

A cleanup of the mining area and the Naboc River would also be undertaken, he said.

An environmental user's fee mechanism and a people's small-scale mining protection fund will be established, he said.

Alvarez said Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who will oversee the peace and order situation in Diwalwal, had recommended certain personalities to secure the area.

Except for SEM, Monkayo Mayor Brillantes and the miners have agreed to the closure of the mining operations.

Brillantes said he was willing to help the affected sectors once the closure was fully implemented by providing food assistance.

Some 2,000 workers of Blucor Minerals Corp. will be affected by the closure order, another 2,000 workers at JB Mining Corp. and 1,000 more at Helica Mining Corp., he said.

But Diwalwal barangay chair Franco Tito said as many as 40,000 people would suffer. "But we welcome that—we do not have the right to oppose it because we cannot also offer an alternative. We find Secretary Alvarez sincere in doing his job," he said.

Military expects freeze on NPA funds, support

From page A1

ons. Its members are also barred from entering the United States and can also be deported.

Purificacion said the military had long called the NPA a terrorist group.

"On our side, we had been calling them dissident terrorists," he told reporters.

In Zamboanga City, Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Southern Command chief, called the communist movement the most established criminal syndicate in the country.

"Many of the things they do are terrorist acts against the government and people's property. Their 'sparrow units' kill innocent people," Carolina said.

In General Santos City, Gen. Roy Cimatu, Armed Forces chief of staff, said he was bothered not by the NPA's display of military might but by its extortion activities.

"The threat is not in terms of inflicting bodily harm on civilians. It is squeezing out their hard-earned money," Cimatu said at the Army's 601st Brigade headquarters on Saturday.

He said the civilians, particularly those leaving in remote areas, were the ones suffering most.

"They (rebels) are not only hampering economic growth in the area, but also creating an atmosphere of fear through intimidation," Cimatu said.

Carolina said the creation of strong community defense forces like Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units (Cafgus) would address the insurgency problem in the country.

An additional 20,000 men are needed to beef up the current Cafgu force of more than 45,000, according to Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling Jr.

"We're confident we can go back to the peak of the Cafgu strength of 70,000 before they were deactivated in the mid-1990s. We need more manpower," Camiling, AFP vice chief of staff, told the INQUIRER.

The three-star general said "they are valuable because they know the terrain and the surrounding territory. It is impossible for us to be present in all areas all the time. Cafgus are organized to look after areas already cleared by our soldiers and defend those not covered by the military."

Cafgus were disbanded by the government during the mid-1990s, mainly due to charges of human rights violations and lack of funds.

Camiling disclosed that a total of 764 Cafgu companies had been deployed to four unified commands of the Armed Forces in compliance with President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to "heighten territorial defense across the country."

Each unified command is composed of regular units of the Army, Air Force and Navy plus the Cafgus.

The military had earlier earmarked more than P700 million for the Cafgu program. "Funds are available. That's why, we're recruiting more Cafgus," Camiling said. ***With a report from Jerry Esplanada***

Pagcor revamp, new faces show hand of politicians

From page A1

The appointments have dismayed Pagcor veterans, many of whom oppose Genuino's changes but are afraid to come out into the open for obvious reasons. The changes are drawn against a backdrop of aggressive expansion in legalized gambling—including the installation of thousands of new slot machines in the next few months—and allegations of anomalous contracts.

A top Pagcor official affected by the changes said the company was being politicized. "This is worse than 'jueteng' politics, because we are seeing the resources of what claims to be the government's third largest funding agency used primarily for political fund-raising," he said.

He added: "Juicy positions, sweetheart deals, funding grants, luxury cars, hotel rooms, manpower, etc. Name it, Pagcor can give it!"

A second Pagcor source said the objective was nothing less than the 2004 elections. What you have here is "the setting up of an organization to control the operations and funds of Pagcor." It involves "entering into contracts to gain political influence and at the same time pool funds for the group. These are all aimed to control the coming 2004 elections."

The second source noted that millions in Pagcor funds were allegedly used by Bigkis Pinoy operatives for last year's mid-term elections.

Dental technician

The appointments have sent mixed signals about Genuino's declared commitment to professionalize the company. Since he took over, for instance, he has appointed a dental technician as chief of surveillance and corporate security, his daughter's newly graduated boyfriend as a purchase evaluation officer, and an accounting clerk in Ms Macapagal's Senate office as his own executive assistant.

"Basically, the objective was to accommodate his (Genuino's) friends and political protégés," the second source said.

But Rene Figueroa, Pagcor deputy chief of staff, strongly denied the charge, saying Genuino broke up some departments and created new ones to streamline the company's operations because of its long list of programs and projects.

"He implemented the reorganization to make the company responsive to the thrust of the organization," Figueroa said in a phone interview.

Gryk Ortaleza, managing head for PR and advertising, also denied anything irregular in the restructuring.

"It is the prerogative of any leader of a corporation to see and come up with the best organization you can come up with," Ortaleza said on Friday.

He said the new departments grew out of the old by necessity. "In fact, it was logical," he added.

Ortaleza flatly denied a strong level of resistance within Pagcor to Genuino's administration. "That's not true!" he said.

Transition team

On Jan. 29, 2001, Genuino created a "transition team" to assist him in his assumption of office. A memorandum he signed as Pagcor president tasked the team with "look(ing) into the present policies, internal controls, manpower staffing, and other related matters" in the government corporation.

RCMC member Rafael Francisco led a team of five: fellow Rotarians Mabuhay Rosero and Ram Agoncillo, Bigkis Pinoy party-list nominee and executive director Edward King, Armi-Corazon Braganza, and Genuino nephew Ryan Cordeta. Agoncillo was also Bigkis Pinoy's first nominee.

All the team members have remained with Pagcor. Francisco is now president of the gaming firm—the first Pagcor president not to have been directly appointed by Malacañang but by the company's own board.

Rosero was appointed head of the surveillance and corporate security department, Agoncillo as managing head of the community relations department, and Braganza as head of the auxiliary audit unit.

All three departments are new. Rosero's unit, surveillance and corporate security, is distinct from the original security department, which continues to exist. Agoncillo's unit was spun off from the public relations, information and media department, while Braganza's auxiliary audit group exists side by side with the internal audit unit and the external auditing office (of the Commission on Audit.)

Cordeta is currently assistant managing head of the property and procurement department, while King has been recently designated officer in charge for PR.

Other new departments include human resources (distinct from personnel); research and development (which took over functions from the gaming department); medical services, and the so-called Pagcor Academy.

The bingo and entertainment department was also split in two, and the logistics and general services unit was divided into the procurement and property and general services departments.

Daughter's boyfriend

Gerwin See, who graduated from the University of Asia and the Pacific in March 2001, was appointed Pagcor officer at the age of 21. As supply accreditation and evaluation officer with the procurement and property department, See occupied a very sensitive position.

On July 29, he was promoted to assistant managing head of PR. Pagcor employees say it is an open secret that he is the boyfriend of Cheryl Genuino, the chairman's daughter.

Rosero has been a dental "ceramist" since 1962. A close associate of Genuino, he has the habit of introducing himself as "the little chairman" inside Pagcor offices, a company officer said. He was first appointed consultant and officer in charge of the Jai Alai department on Feb. 15, retroactive to a week before. His wife Leonor is a doctor of the President.

A group of four new employees identified by a third Pagcor executive as loyalists of the First Gentleman—Genuino's nephew Cordeta, plus Luis dela Concepcion, Pedrito Adao and Glecy Basilan—was first appointed on Feb. 14, 2001, with classifications of 5A or 6A. They were "reappointed" on March 16, as executive assistant assigned to the office of the chairman, but now with a pay classification of 8A. (The INQUIRER has copies of their old and new papers and related office memorandums.)

Basilan has worked for Ms Macapagal since 1995. From February to May that year, she was officer in charge of the GMA (election) headquarters. From August 1995 to June 1998, she served as accounting clerk with the office of Senator Macapagal. From July 1998 to March 2001, she reported for work as staff officer 2 of the office of Vice President Macapagal. Basilan is a graduate of Trace Computer College, owned by Genuino.

"They were appointed because of their association with Genuino. Genuino brought them in to protect his own interest," the second Pagcor source said.

Not insiders

Figueroa clarified that not all Genuino's appointees were outsiders.

He noted that Emily Padua and Mariz Dugayo, heads of the bingo and entertainment departments, were longtime Pagcor personnel. Espinosa, head of the procurement and property department, is a former Pagcor employee who was recently reinstated.

Figueroa also pointed out that not all the appointees were members of the Rotary Club or the Bigkis Pinoy party-list group. "I myself am not a member of any of these two groups. I came from the private sector," he said.

He added: "Not all positions require exams. Taking exams was not required of those appointed to high positions because Mr. Genuino knew of their caliber and capacity," he said.

Gaming firm says slot machine plan modest, reasonable

From page A1

critics have made an issue of our modest slot machine program, which is merely an attempt to keep the country abreast with the fast-developing global technology in the gaming-entertainment business," Genuino said.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye upped the ante by pledging support, not only for Pagcor's new slot machines, but also for "jueteng" if this numbers game were to be legalized by Congress.

"If there is a move in Congress to legalize (jueteng) and that eventually becomes law, then that's the law," Bunye said. "We have to follow the law."

But in Cebu City, a fuming Rep. Raul del Mar said he would initiate a congressional inquiry into the proliferation of slot machines outside the state-run gambling casinos.

"They (Pagcor) are going too far," Del Mar told the INQUIRER.

Del Mar, a member of the House committee on legislative franchises, said he believed that Pagcor has no authority to operate slot machines outside its casinos.

"A franchise is a privilege. This is an abuse (of that privilege)," Del Mar said.

Jackpot system

Rene Figueroa, Pagcor deputy chief of staff for operations, said the "progressive jackpot system" that critics had denounced would actually benefit the government.

Figueroa said the approved version of the system differed from the original. The main difference, he emphasized, is that Pagcor has shifted the main risk—the minimum jackpot prize of P500,000—from itself to the private contractors.

"The risk is now shouldered by the proponent because Pagcor is not paying any capitalization," he told the INQUIRER on Saturday.

The original proposal—the one denounced by former and current Pagcor employees, including ex-gaming head Ray Peter Vivo—tasked Pagcor with raising the jackpot prize.

"That's a very risky proposition," said Figueroa. "But we did not follow that. We have adopted Pagcor's own version, not theirs. Our version requires them to put up the initial jackpot prize every time the pot is emptied by the lucky winner. And they agreed."

"So the government is not placed in a disadvantageous situation. There's no harm done," he added.

He explained that the 60-40 income-sharing scheme was not disadvantageous to Pagcor, not even when compared to a straight rental arrangement.

"We're talking here of the side bets only. The progressive system allows for side bets (for players in a Stud Poker game), which was not allowed before. The 60-40 does not cover the regular bets, so in a sense, we even increased Pagcor's revenue from the 'progressive stud poker.'"

No violation

He said side-betting "is being practiced all over the world."

In his statement, Genuino emphasized that the gaming firm had "not violated the law for the simple reason that it has not entered into any joint venture with any entity for the operation of slot machine arcades."

He explained that the slot machine contracts were "simple lease agreements whereby Pagcor plays the lessor a fixed monthly rental equivalent to 40 percent of the gross proceeds of the business."

Figueroa also pointed out that the high court ruling did not bar Pagcor from implementing the progressive jackpot system. "The high court ruling prohibits us from issuing franchises. But we did not issue any license to anybody. We merely rented the equipment of these game proponents. Pagcor operates the machines . . . the games."

He also denied the accusation that he had personally authorized the two winning private contractors, GoldCor and Mio, to install 264 and 148 more units of the system respectively.

"That's untrue. We did not grant any authority. What was granted was the authority to undertake," said Figueroa, who stressed that "the number of machines, what type of games the system will be applied, and in which casinos to test are to be taken up in a separate agreement."

He said Pagcor could shut down the operations anytime, saying that the progressive system was "on an extended trial period."

"Admittedly, we did not conduct any public bidding for the simple reason that we did not choose any proponent. We welcomed everyone to participate in the trial period, but they must adopt our own version."

Figueroa also brushed aside accusations that Mio and GoldCor were authorized to install the machines because of their owners' closeness to Pagcor chair and president Efraim Genuino.

"Untrue," he said. "Genuino's brother, Romy, only asked us to look into GoldCor's proposal. That's it. What's wrong with that? We did not give any undue advantage to GoldCor." ***With a report from Carlito Pablo and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Why don't cops get tough on this solon?

From page A1

one with a congressman belonging to the President's own political party, who was ordered arrested by a trial court some 10 months ago?

Fr. Robert Reyes, national president of the priests' group Gomburza, yesterday sought the immediate arrest of Lakas Rep. Prospero Pichay for issuing bouncing checks worth P3 million in 1997.

"Representative Pichay must be made to face the charges. Otherwise he would be party to a mockery of the country's justice system," Reyes said.

The arrest warrant was issued by Judge Ma. Elisa Sempio Diy of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 34 on Oct. 18 last year.

Pichay was charged with five counts of violation of Batas Pambansa 22 (BP 22) or the "bouncing checks law" along with a business associate, Severino Tuazon, president of Universal Converter Philippines Inc., a paper company based in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

The court set a bail of P30,000 for each count or a total of P150,000 for Pichay.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by one Nora Tecson, paper trader, of 31 Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, Quezon City, in 1997. At that time, Pichay was publisher of the tabloid Remate and was also known as a newsprint distributor for Picop Resources Inc.

Pichay was elected representative of the first district of Surigao del Sur in May 1998.

Despite the court order, Pichay and Tuazon have not been served the arrest warrant, court records show.

The Constitution grants member of Congress immunity from arrest for all offenses punishable by not more than six years of imprisonment—but only while Congress is in session.

"Session" does not refer to the day-to-day meetings of the legislature but to the entire period from its initial convening until its final adjournment.

Thus, after the adjournment of the congressional session, the standing warrant of arrest may be effected. But until today, neither the Central Police District (CPD) nor the National Bureau of Investigation has served the warrant.

Pichay lives a few blocks away from the NBI office at the Unit 7-E Ocean Tower Condominium, in Malate, Manila, and holds office within the jurisdiction of the CPD.

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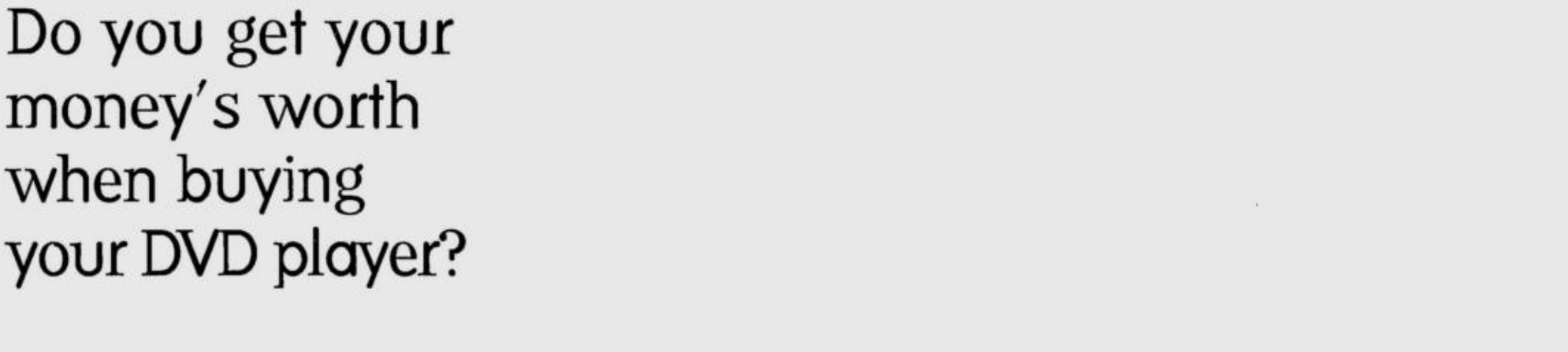

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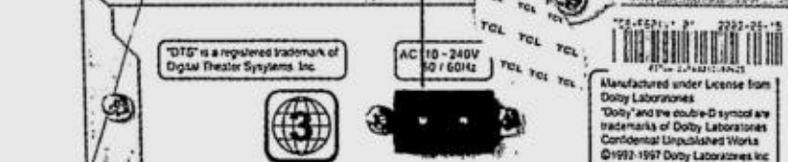
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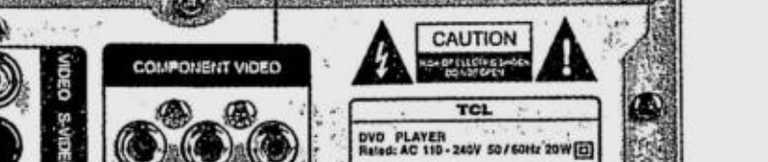

TDE-F60 Pearl White Silver

How does GMA see Reds?

From page A1

their sources of financial support and prevent their movement across international borders."

But the Philippine government cannot just adopt the label "terrorist" stamped by the US government on communist guerrillas because the Philippines does not have an anti-terrorism law which was the Americans' basis for including the NPA in the list of foreign terrorist organizations, Ocampo said.

The CPP and the NPA have not been considered outlawed organizations since the repeal in 1992 of Republic Act No. 1700, or the Anti-Subversion Act of 1957.

"What is applicable against the CPP-NPA is the crime of rebellion under the Revised Penal Code," said Ocampo, a former spokesperson of the NDF.

Buying time

Press Secretary Bunye is apparently buying some time. He said the government could not say whether the CPP was a terrorist group because Manila had yet to receive a formal communication from Washington.

"We'll just have to wait first for the official document," he said. "I'm sure the DFA (Department of Foreign Affairs) and the related agencies will get together and come up with a position."

Bunye said it would be "unfortunate" if the communist rebels pulled out of the peace negotiations because of the US declaration.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo's standing instruction to government negotiators was to "keep the communication lines open."

Ocampo said it seemed likely that the Philippine government would take the cue from the US government's declaration of the NPA as an FTO, and allow US troops to go after NPA guerrillas and sympathizers in its continuing war on terrorism.

"Everything seemed coordinated, from Powell's visit to Macapagal's declaration of all-out war against the NPA, and the US government's declaration of the NPA as an FTO," Ocampo said.

Intervention

"These are all part of a plan for the direct intervention of the United States in the counterinsurgency campaign," he said. In October, American forces will join Filipino soldiers in another war exercises.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla denounced the US classification of the CPP as a terrorist organization as intervention in the country's internal affairs.

"Whatever differences the government and the NDF have are an internal matter," Padilla said.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said it was the height of arrogance for the United States to announce its position against the CPP-NPA when the rebel group and the Philippine government were ready to initiate peace talks.

Rosales said the US might was being used in the government's carrot-and-stick policy on the CPP-NPA had Ms Macapagal encouraged Powell to make the announcement as Press Secretary Bunye had indicated.

"This is alarming as it makes the Philippines fall dangerously into the role of an American lackey that is unable to make independent decisions on questions of national security and peace," Rosales said in a statement.

She asked whether the US classification of the CPP-NPA would mean that military efforts against the NPA would require US military presence, the same way Manila allowed US military advisers to take part in operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Villarama

Bulacan Rep. Willie B. Villarama expressed concern that the US classification of the CPP-NPA as a terrorist group would put in danger groups espousing anti-US policies as they could also be labeled terrorist groups.

Villarama said the Philippine government should make its own assessment whether the CPP-NPA was a terrorist group.

Padilla said those against US policies would likely be branded terrorists. He recalled US President George Bush's statement after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that those against the United States in its fight against global terrorists were terrorists.

A group that broke away from the CPP has expressed solidarity with those denouncing the US classification of the party as a foreign terrorist group.

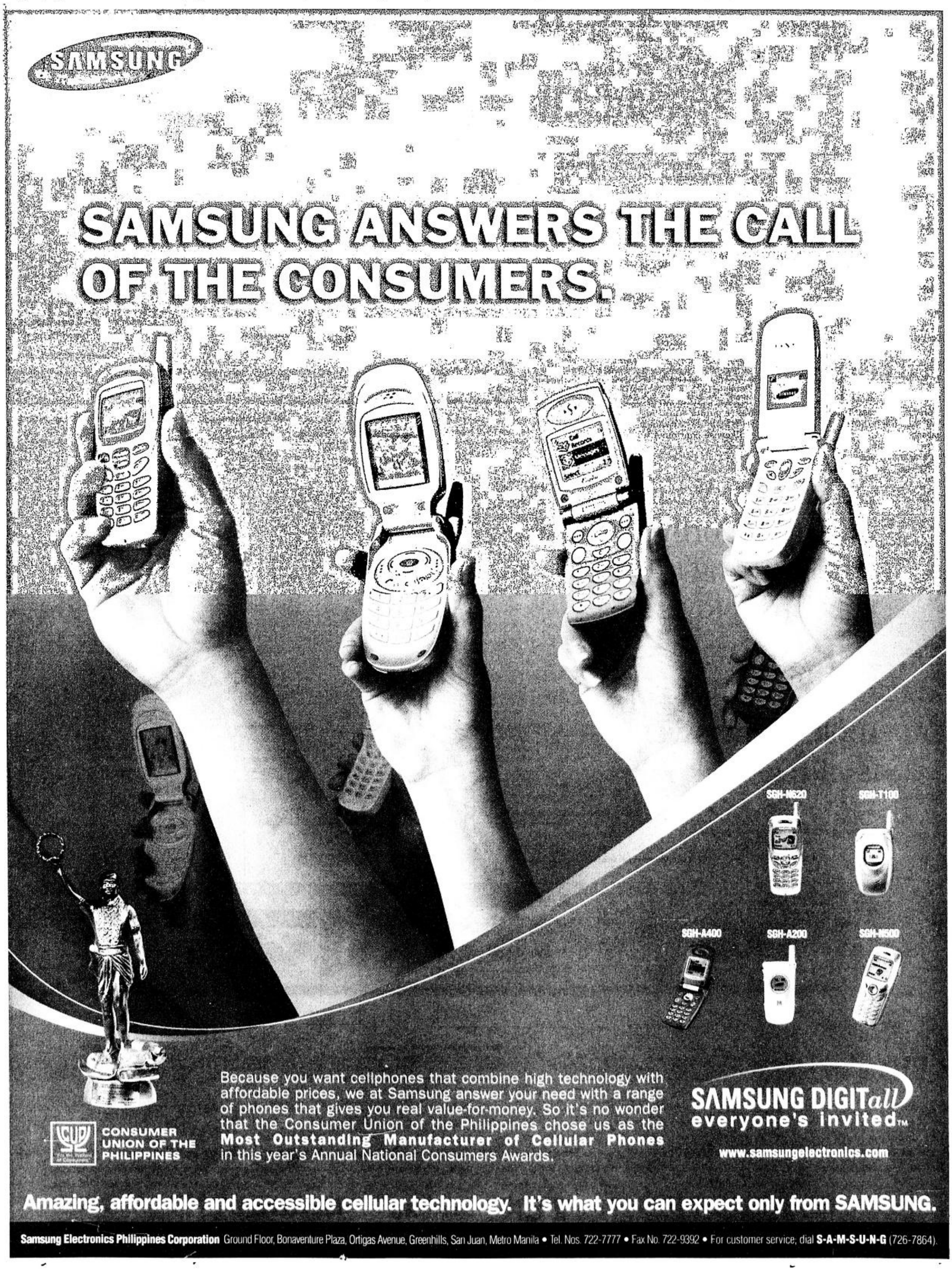
Patricio Ramirez, spokesperson of the underground Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino (PMP), declared his group's "openness to link up arms with the CPP-NPA and other groups in the fight against the common enemy."

Despite the PMP's questions about the strategy and tactics of the CPP-NPA, the PMP does not consider its rival a terrorist group, according to Ramirez.

PMP was founded by the late rebel leader Felimon "Ka Popoy" Lagman, who led the breakaway group in 1993.

Ramirez described Powell's declaration as a "malicious pretext" to scuttle the peace talks between the NDF and the Macapagal administration.

"It is meant to pull the rug from under the feet of peace negotiators and put down a blanket of militarism over the heads of the people," the PMP spokesperson said in a statement. ***With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***



Talk N Text checks skid, stuns Alaska

By June Navarro

GAME TOMORROW (Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.—Shell vs Red Bull

TALK N Text portrayed its spoiler's role to the hilt and stunned Alaska, 80-76, at the close of the elimination round of the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Safely perched at the No. 7 spot going into the quarterfinals win or lose, the Phone Pals denied the Aces an easy ride to the Top 4 as they broke a three-game slump to finish their elimination stint at 5-5.

Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno was impressed by the way his Phone Pals played but instead of beaming about their victory over the Aces, he spent most of his time throwing brickbats at game officials during the post-game interview.

Bayno charged game officials of favoring San Miguel Beer in the past games, a conclusion he made after thoroughly reviewing their tapes against the Beermen.

"We didn't get a fair shake against San Miguel," said Bayno, referring to the Phone Pals' setback against the Beermen, 84-72, two weeks ago.

Paolo Mendoza and Marlou Aquino shone as Sta. Lucia Realty thrashed San Miguel Beer, 74-65, to seize the No. 2 ranking in the next round.

The final pairings in the quarterfinals are top seed Red Bull vs eighth seeded Shell, Sta. Lucia (2) vs Talk N Text (7), Alaska (3) vs FedEx (6), and San Miguel (4) vs Coca-Cola (7).

Falcons nip UP Maroons

By Dennis U. Eroa

SWINGMAN Patrick Tiongco recovered his shooting touch just in time to lift Adamson to an exciting 61-59 victory over University of the Philippines yesterday in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

A former Mapua Cardinal, the 6-foot-2 Tiongco missed his first six attempts from the three-point area before hitting two straight triples in crunchtime which spelled doom for the Fighting Maroons.

UP was cruising to victory, 57-52, but Tiongco's six-point blast which earned thunderous roars from the Adamson camp, changed the complexion of the game, 58-57, 1:12 remaining.

The Falcons, thus finished their first round elimination campaign with a 3-4 card, same record of their victim.

In the second game, Dennis Miranda made the marginal basket as FEU tripped NU, 87-85. FEU is now 2-5, while NU remains winless in seven games.

Depleted PCU battles UPHR today

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m. —UPHR vs PCU (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs CSB (jrs/srs)

PHILIPPINE Christian University faces University of Perpetual Help-Rizal today at the resumption of the NCAA basketball tournament with a depleted roster after five of its players earned penalties for figuring in a fistfight with San Beda Red Lion Erl Merelos last week.

The NCAA management committee slapped Aldwyn Ilagan, Robert Sanz and Nelson Gatdula with three-game suspensions each while Leo Gaspi and Al Dais will sit out the Dolphins-Altas confrontation at 2 p.m. Their ranks decimated, the Dolphins are deadset on putting their loss by forfeiture against the Red Lions behind and focus on improving their six-win, two-loss slate. *J.N.*

Mimosa, Valley trounce Fed League opponents

Team Standings
Group I: 5 Mimosa, 4 Sta. Elena, 2 Mt. Malarayat, 1 Orchard, 1 Alabang
Group II: 4 Valley, 2 Royal Northwoods, 2 Manila Southwoods, 2 Eastridge, 0 Wack Wack
Group III: 4 Forest Hills, 4 Manila Golf, 2 Canlubang, 2 Riviera, 1 Highlands

DARKHORSE Mimosa and Valley won by big margins to seize the lead in their respective divisions even as surprise draws punctuated the weekend matches of the 2002 Federation Golf League in various venues.

Mimosa became the second team to secure the novel extra point incentive after pulling off a 3.5-.5 victory over a visiting Orchard, moving ahead in Group I with 5 points. Under a new format, a team which earns 3.5 or 4 points per match get an extra point.

Sta. Elena failed to keep in pace with Mimosa after being held to a 2-2 draw by Mt. Malarayat. Sta. Elena has 4 points while Mt. Malarayat is in third place with 2.

Valley likewise continued its amazing run with a 3-1 win over Eastridge to surge on top in Group II with 4 points. Eastridge slid into a tie for second with its upset victim last week Manila Southwoods and Royal Northwoods whose match with Wack Wack was postponed.

In Group III, Manila Golf jumped into a tie for the top spot at four points with idle defending champion Forest Hills despite a 2-2 draw with Tagaytay Highlands

In another Group III match, Riviera recovered from back-to-back to losses by routing a visiting Canlubang squad, 3-1.

Sammy Bugayong-John Santos (aggregate), Kim Chang Hoi-Norberto Liwanag (best ball), Roberto Eusebio-Jae Vincent Flores won their respective matches for Mimosa while Rene Tayag-Dionisio Juan salvaged a draw.

Rotary Diliman prevails

THE ROTARY Club of Diliman trio of JV Alde, Narcing San Juan and Lourdie Torres bagged the overall team title in the sixth staging of the August Fore! Invitational golf tournament at the Wack Wack west course recently.

Alde and San Juan scored 46 and 40 points, respectively, for the Rotarians' 86 points as they towed teammate Lourdie Torres (27) to a close two-point win over the Michael Liew-led Performance Forex.

Alde and San Juan also romped off with the overall individual and Class B titles in the well-attended 18-hole tourney held in honor of Bimbo Salazar, Rotary International Past District Governor and currently a member of the Monetary Board.

Major sponsorships obtained from Portals and San Miguel Corp. as well as the minor support given by Gleitsmann Security Inks Gmbh, International Container Terminal Services, Inc., Nestle Phils, LG Atkimson Chemicals Corp., Guard All Electronics Security System, Zuellig Corp., Star Paper Corp., Country Bankers Insurance Corp., Bingo Bonanza and Urbans Escape Day Spa provided the needed funds for various charity projects. Mitsubishi Lancer GLX, Jieda and S.C. Kymco Pilipinas Inc. provided the hole-in-one prizes.

Salazar together with organizing committee chair Trina Davies immediately handed out checks to annual Rotarympics for the disabled, Rotary's medical center for indigents and the Tib-Ong Foundation's scholarship grants for the poor in Bacolod.

Misa-Kraut duo sparkles

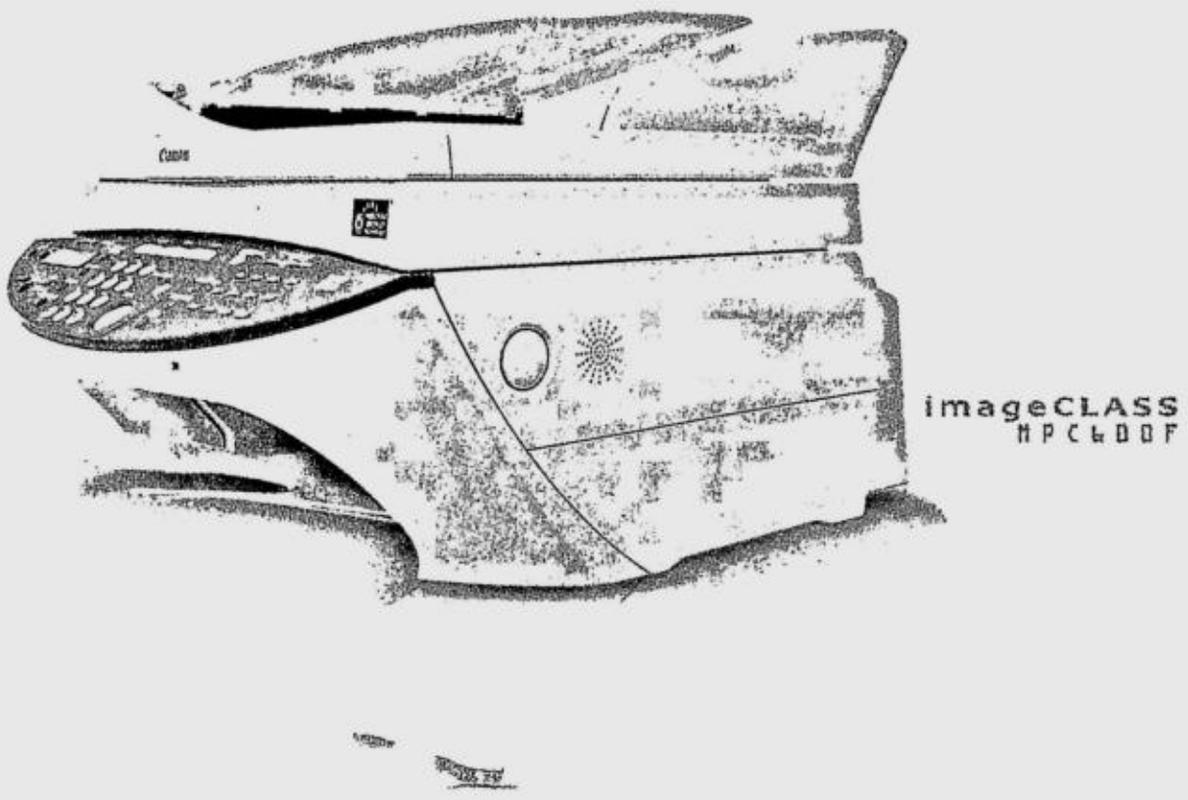
MIKE Misa and Julius Kraut of the Philippine Columbian Association lived up to expectations by scoring a straight sets win over Randy Villanueva-Hanky Lee of host Valle Verde in their showdown for the men's Open crown of the Wilson Interclub Tennis Challenge recently.

Misa and Kraut, justifying their billing as the top seeds, was given a tough time in a 7-5 opening set win. But that proved to be the last stand of Villanueva and Lee as they yielded a 6-0 decision in the next set.

The titles in the other divisions were evenly distributed with the UP Tennis Club ending up with the most victories. Nanie Jimenez-Ted Nepomuceno clinched the Class B plum while George Gil-Sonny Castillo took the 40 & above division.

Valle Verde managed to win only one of the four finals it reached with the pair of Rey Orsolino-Emil Erum salvaging the lone victory in the 35 & above class at the expense of Andy Maglipon and Gilbert dela Paz of the Orchard.

In the ladies class, Jean Agra-Isa Go of Metro Club denied Sally Ong-Irene Chua of Valle while Darren de Ocampo-Jojit Buenaventura (ETC) edged Ed Tajonera-Angie Cruz for the Class C title.



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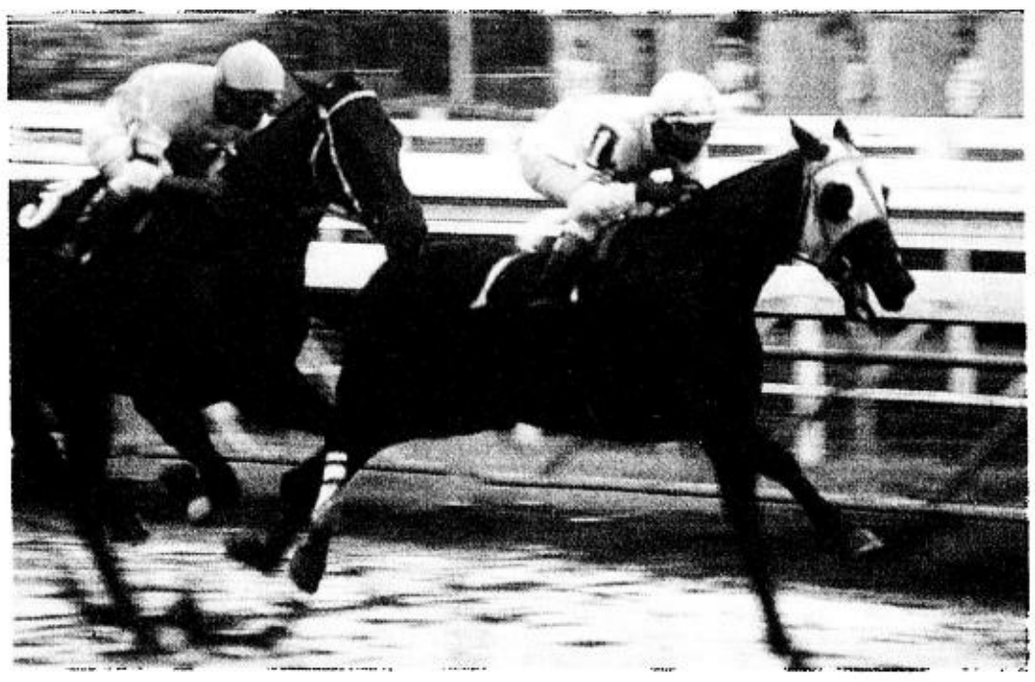
Pat Day breaks jockeys career money record

SARATOGA SPRINGS, New York — Pat Day broke the career money record for a jockey Saturday, riding With Anticipation to victory in the $ 500,000 Sword Dancer Handicap at the Saratoga Race Course.

With the $ 300,000 in prize money, Day's horses have earned $ 264,580,968 in his 29-year career. Chris McCarron, who retired last month, had the previous record of $ 264,351,679. *AP*



DIKTADOR (left), handled by Jeffril Zarate, trails the Jonathan Hernandez-ridden High Octane in the early going of the Bishop Blue Stakes. Diktador went on to beat High Octane by two lengths. JESS YUSON

Shining Pyramid leads Juvenile Stakes winners

By Edwin Villanueva

THE word 'pyramid,' according to sportsman-businessman Marlon Cunanan, brings good luck to him, especially at the races.

Yesterday, Cunanan's promising galloper named Shining Pyramid glittered like gold by winning the Cool Star Stakes, first leg of the 2002 Juvenile Fillies Championship, at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

"Medyo swerte tayo pag may 'pyramid' *kaya yan ang pinangalan ko dyan,"* said Cunanan of the two-year-old chestnut progeny of Khozaam and Rework.

Cunanan, who has also gained fame through Gold Pyramid, added he knew Shining Pyramid would make it because the horse whom he also bred has been performing excellently in workouts.

"Besides, *gamay na gamay ni* Jaja *at maganda ang pakundisyon ni* Pepe," he said, referring to jockey Jeffrey Ladiana and trainer Jose Torno.

Shining Pyramid, a slight favorite, outkicked Doña Gelay and Real Diamond down the stretch to score a two-length victory and capture the P600,000 first prize in the 1,425-meter race.

"Isasali uli natin siya (Shining Pyramid) *sa susunod na leg at sana magtuluy-tuloy ang bwenas,"* added Cunanan.

Also getting attention was Diktador who upset the much touted High Octane of Hermie Esguerra in the Bishop Blue Stakes, opening leg of the Juvenile Colts Stakes series.

Diktador (Treasure Cay-Flying Angel), handled by Jeffril Zarate, stalked High Octane from the outset, blew past the heavy favorite at the far turn then coasted to a two-length win also worth P600,000.

"That's racing. Anything can happen. *Isa pa, magaling* yung nanalo," said Esguerra.

High Octane's loss actually extended the Esguerra Stable's woes for the day starting with Siete de Marso who was caught in the last few strides by Putch Puyat's Earl Gray in the first Hopeful Stakes.

In the Cool Star Stakes, Tatler Cover lost steam at the top of the stretch and wound up only fourth, the same spot Sandata got in the other Hopeful race. "I hope they were just temporary setbacks," added Esguerra.

Alay sa Kawal racefest up

THE MANILA Jockey Club Inc. and the Alay sa Kawal Foundation Inc. (Askfi), the oldest and most active NGO dedicated to the Filipino soldier, recently joined hands to stage the inaugural "Alay sa Kawal Racing Festival," a fund-raising project slated Aug. 21 to 25 at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

MJCI president and chief executive Alfonso R. Reyno Jr. and Askfi chair and former Finance Secretary Edgardo B. Espiritu signed the agreement in simple festivities at the Manila Golf and Country Club.

Defense Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, chair of the Organizing Committee, was the guest of honor in the affair.

"We are honored to provide the Alay sa Kawal Foundation with an innovative fund-raising mechanism to support its programs intended to alleviate the plight of our soldiers," said Reyno.

Reyes, meanwhile, underscored the important role of the Filipino soldier in the heroic task of nation-building, citing the importance of extending support to soldiers at the battlefront.

Espiritu explained that the proceeds of the "Alay sa Kawal Racing Festival" will go to the various projects of the ASK Foundation which include the cash assistance program for families of enlisted personnel who died or were incapacitated in combat, field fellowship program, scholarship program, livelihood development program and other projects supported by the public and private sectors.

Highlight of the five-day racing festival would be the running of the "Alay sa Kawal Cup" on Aug. 25, Sunday, a championship horse race to be participated in by the country's top three-year-old gallopers who competed in the recently concluded Triple Crown Championship Series.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Western and Southern Financial Masters (Cincinnati), Men's Semifinal Match #1 at 8 a.m. (r), Match #2 at 10 a.m. (r), Final at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Buick Open, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r – 10 p.m.) on Star Sports

LPGA Sybase Big Apple Classic, Final Round at midnight (r) on ESPN

BASEBALL: MLB - New York Mets vs St. Louis Cardinals at 8 a.m. (r – 5 p.m.) on ESPN

BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour (Thailand), Women's Highlights at 8:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

SPORTSWATCH

Davenport-Rubin final set

MANHATTAN BEACH, California—Lindsay Davenport, making a comeback from knee surgery, reached her first final of the year with a 6-3, 6-4 semifinal victory over Ai Sugiyama in the JPMorgan Chase Open on Saturday. Davenport improved to 9-2 playing her third tournament in as many weeks. She was a semifinalist at Stanford and Carlsbad, California, in her previous two outings since having left knee surgery in January. In Sunday's final, she'll face 12th-seeded Chanda Rubin, who beat No. 4 Jelena Dokic 6-0, 6-2 in 41 minutes. *AP*

Hewitt, Moya arrange duel

MASON, Ohio—Top-ranked Lleyton Hewitt beat unseeded Fernando Gonzalez 6-7 (3), 7-5, 6-2 Saturday night to advance to the final of the Cincinnati Masters Series. The Australian star will face Carlos Moya on Sunday in the championship match. The 16th-seeded Moya beat Spanish countryman Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-3, 6-4. Hewitt, preparing for his U.S. Open title defense, has won four titles this year, including Wimbledon and the Masters Series event in Indian Wells, California. *AP*

Sosa, Cubs swamp Rockies

DENVER —After hitting a trio of three-run homers and tying a franchise record with nine RBIs — all in the first five innings — Sammy Sosa decided that was enough. The Colorado Rockies must have agreed. Sosa removed himself from the game in the sixth, and his Chicago Cubs routed the Rockies 15-1 Saturday night. "When you're up 15-1 and you have a day game the next day and you had a game like I had, you need to know when you've had enough," Sosa said. Sosa connected in successive at-bats in the third, fourth and fifth innings at Coors Field. He took over the major league lead with 38 homers and matched Johnny Mize's record of six career three-homer games. *AP*

KARTING ACTION
Pepon Marave (03) of the Philippines shows the way in this bit of action in the Formula Super A race in the Shell-Casino Filipino CIK-FIA Asia Open Zone Karting Championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite recently. Marave finished second to Malaysian Mohammed Fariz in the first race of the competition organized by the Carmona Circuit Philippines in cooperation with Shell and Casino Filipino.

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BUICK OPEN

Woods hangs on by 1 shot

GRAND BLANC, Michigan — Tiger Woods, four strokes ahead after the second round at the Buick Open, had a double bogey on his first hole Saturday and was three strokes behind at one point before rallying for a 1-under 71 and a one-stroke lead.

Woods, preparing for the PGA Championship next week at Hazeltine in Chaska, Minnesota, has won 24 of 26 PGA Tour events when leading or tied or the lead entering the final round.

Esteban Toledo, who enjoyed the lead for a few holes, was a stroke back at 14 under after a 67. Fred Funk (67) and Bob Tway (68) were 12 under, and first-round leader Kent Jones (70) followed at 11 under.

Woods, playing his first tournament since his chance for a Grand Slam ended at the British Open, had gone 51 holes without a bogey, dating to the third hole in the final round at Muirfield.

But his streak ended with a double bogey on No. 1, which dropped him to 12 under.

Woods' drive went into the right rough, his second shot sailed long and left, out of bounds by a foot. His fourth shot landed in a greenside bunker and he missed a 6-foot bogey putt.

WOODS

Woods got a stroke back with a birdie on No. 2. Then he birdied 7 and bogeyed 9 to finish the front nine at 1 over for the day and 13 under overall.

Toledo had a three-stroke lead at 16 under with a birdie at No. 13, then struggled and fell into second. He has never won on the PGA Tour and his lone career win came in the 2000 Mexican Open.

Toledo's bogeyed the 15th and missed a 2-foot birdie putt on the next hole. He missed the green on the par-3 17th, then bogeyed to fall to 14 under, one shot behind Woods.

Woods birdied three of five holes on the back nine before bogeying 18.

Woods, who has won seven of the last 12 major tournaments, has a chance this week and next to add to his impressive resume.

If he wins the Buick Open and the PGA Championship he would be the first player to win three majors in one year twice. Ben Hogan did it in 1953 and Woods did it two years ago.

Woods also would also be the first player to win a major after winning a tournament the previous week since Sandy Lyle won the Greater Greensboro Open and the Masters in 1988.

Woods won this year's Masters and U.S. Open, the first two legs of the Grand Slam. *AP*

3rd round scores:

Tiger Woods	67-63-71-201
Esteban Toledo	68-67-67-202
Fred Funk	71-66-67-204
Bob Tway	71-65-68-204
Kent Jones	65-70-70-205
Steve Flesch	72-68-66-206
Tom Byrum	70-68-68-206
David Toms	68-68-70-206
Jim Furyk	69-67-70-206
Brian Gay	69-71-67-207
Russ Cochran	71-68-68-207
Mark O'Meara	68-69-70-207
Blaine McCallister	68-68-71-207
Tommy Tolles	72-64-71-207
Luke Donald	67-69-71-207
Kenny Perry	73-69-66-208
Brian Henninger	71-70-67-208
K.J. Choi	66-74-68-208
Phil Mickelson	69-70-69-208
Paul Azinger	69-70-69-208
Jeff Sluman	70-67-71-208
John Senden	68-69-71-208
Robert Damron	67-69-72-208
Carlos Franco	68-67-73-208
Pat Bates	68-67-73-208
Brett Wetterich	74-68-67-209

Tracksters end drought

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito and Marestella Torres finished 2-3 in the women's long jump Saturday, snapping the Philippines' long medal drought in the Asian Athletic Championships.

Gabito's silver was the country's best in 17 years while Torres' bronze matched Elma Muros-Posadas' effort in the 1993 Manila edition of the event being held at the Sugathdasa Stadium here for the first time.

Both leaped 6.40 meters,but Gabito took second behind Kazakhstan's Kocksheyeva Yolena (6.61 M) due to a better second jump. The 27-year-old Gabito, of Perblanca, Cagayan, cleared 6.34m as against the 6.25m of the 21-year-old Torres, an FEU physical education senior from San Jose Occidental Mindoro.

"Lerma and Marestella gave it their best shot and they were rewarded. Our athletes are performing up to par," said Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok. "Hopefully they'll hit peak from in time for the Asian Games in Busan."

Joebert Delicano and John Lozada also stayed in the hunt for medals.

The 22-year-old Delicano cleared 7.64m in the men's long jump. *Roy Luarca*

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Rosales on . . .

From page A24

rookie Natalie Gulbis and Spain's Paula Marti and three up on the five-player group at 207 led by the biggest name in the leaderboard, Karrie Webb, winner of five majors and a two-time champion of this event.

Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin was tied for 22nd after submitting her second 70 in three days.

Rosales said she can't wait to go to the course and face her biggest challenge yet as a pro golfer.

"I'm really excited. Not nervous, though. I am looking forward to get the experience (of a final pairing with Koch) tomorrow and we'll see what happens," said Rosales who got her first taste of the lead in a tournament as a pro.

Overseas calls from family members both in the Philippines and in the US before she teed off at around 10 p.m. Manila time also gave Rosales the needed confidence-booster.

Her mom asked her to make the most of the opportunity while younger brother Gerald told her to keep her focus and do what she's been doing the past few weeks where she has stormed to the Top 30 of the LPGA money list.

Rosales' best finish in the LPGA is third (2000 Office Depot) but her seventh place showing in the US Open rewarded her with her biggest paycheck of $78,000. Rosales birdied three of the four par-5s (Nos. 3,7 and 17) and added four more on Nos. 6, 9, 11 and 16. *Jong Arcano*

3rd round scores:

204 - Carin Koch 68-68-68, Jennifer Rosales 69-70-65

206 - Natalie Gulbis 69-70-67, Paula Marti 69-68-69

207 - Michelle Ellis 69-70-68, Candie Kung 65-71-71, Beth Bauer 70-67-70, Karrie Webb 66-71-70, Tina Barrett 67-70-70

208 Angela Stanford 69-70-69, Jeong Jang 73-69-66 Se Ri Pak 67-72-69, Catrin Nilsmark 70-69-69 Pat Hurst 69-70-69 Meg Mallon 69-71-68

209 - Rachel Teske 67-74-68, Patricia Meunier-Lebouc 69-71-69, Beth Daniel 73-68-68

Mendoza duathlon champ

AIR Force bet Ryan Mendoza made a big move in the final 6-km loop to claim the Male Open crown in the Enervon-Aava Duathlon Challenge yesterday at the posh Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City.

Mendoza, who also won the 258 Balayan Duathlon Challenge recently, registered a winning time of 1 hour, 35 minutes and 19 seconds making him P3,000 richer. First runner-up was National Junior Sprint champion Francis Mercado with 1:35:30. Third was Laguna's Mark Candelaria (1:35:44).

In the distaff side in the event sponsored by Enervon, the Ayala Alabang Village Association (AAVA), Speedo, Jewels Chow Corner, Reliv Philippines, Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee, Under-23 champion Katherine Kaye Lopez won the Female Open title handily in 1:49:36. She won P3,000.

Teammate Anna Marissa "Popo" Nagtalon claimed the silver, while another teammate Lakambini Alto finished third.

The next event of the ongoing "Road to the 2nd Asian Duathlon Championships" program is set for Sept. 14 in Danao City.

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■ Shining Pyramid prevails /A22
■ Woods hangs on by 1 shot /A23

SPORTS

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Rosales on course for ₱12-M jackpot

JENNY Rosales' frantic call sent her half-awake mother grappling for the phone buttons.

"*Dali* mommy *tawagan mo ako*, I have good news for you!," Jenny, who was calling from her hotel room in Ayrshire, Scotland, told her mom Lourdes.

The news Jenny delivered in the wee hours of Sunday morning roused Mrs. Rosales: she just shot a personal-best seven-under-par 65 that gave her a share of the lead with Carin Koch of Sweden going into the final round of the Weetabix Women's British Open.

Rosales' seven-birdie round which tied the course record at the Turnberry Golf Club put her in a position to score her first victory as a professional which would also become the biggest feat by a local sports figure both impact and money wise.

What awaits Rosales is no less than a paycheck of $243,000 (about P12 million) from the total pot of $1.54 million and instant prominence worldwide, the Women's British Open being the last of the LPGA Tour's four majors.

Koch needed to bang in a 30-foot birdie putt on the last hole for a 68 and join Rosales at 204. They were two strokes ahead of 19-year-old

ROSALES/A23

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

2 46 5 44 26 3

SUERTRES 6 2 4

(in exact order)

ROSALES lining up her putt for one of the seven birdies she made. AP

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

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Fernando cannot ignore the law, urban poor warn

By Christian V. Esguerra and Leila B. Salaverria

METRO MANILA Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando "should remember that there are still laws governing the human rights of people living near creeks and on sidewalks."

Ted Añana, assistant coordinator of the Urban Poor Associates, said this yesterday as he warned the MMDA head that he could face lawsuits if he proceeded with the demolition of shanties and the clearing of sidewalks to rid the metropolis of informal settlers and sidewalk obstructions.

"When he was still mayor of Marikina, he virtually ignored the law," Añana said. "He cannot do that in Metro Manila."

He urged Fernando to heed President Macapagal-Arroyo and meet with urban poor groups before the MMDA and other government agencies start clearing congested areas to give way to infrastructure projects.

The UPA had earlier claimed that about 100,000 families could be displaced if the government carried out the multi-million flood-control projects in northern Metro Manila and in Taguig, Rizal, and Laguna.

FERNANDO/ p. A26

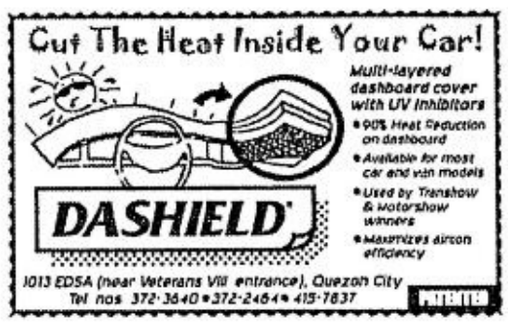
PARSONS

Parsons hits 'sloppy police work'

By Nelson F. Flores

ACTOR Sonny Parsons yesterday said sloppy police work almost led to the release of a robbery suspect whom he had shot and wounded during the robbery in his house last month.

PARSONS/ p. A26



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No Philip Medel shocker today, says Wycoco

By Philip C. Tubeza

WYCOCO

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said that in today's initial hearing of the preliminary investigation of the case Nida Blanca case, he does not expect another surprise like the one pulled off by Philip Medel Jr., self-confessed killer of the actress.

"We do not expect anything (like that)," Wycoco said. "You know we have a strong case."

A hysterical Medel had recanted on national television his initial confession that he killed the actress. He also claimed that members of the Criminal and Investigation and Detection Group had tortured him into confessing to the killing.

This led to the transfer of the investigation of the case to the NBI, which said Blanca's American husband, Rod Strunk, had ordered her killing. The NBI also tagged Medel as her killer.

Blanca's daughter Kaye Torres, her lawyer Harriet Demetriou, witnesses and NBI investigators and members of the CIDG would come in full force today.

"We are now prepared," Wycoco said. "We have planned for this for a long time."

But Strunk, the principal suspect in Blanca's murder, is not expected to show up during the hearing, he said.

"We doubt it if Mr. Strunk would be there," he said. "His lawyers would probably represent him during the preliminary investigation."

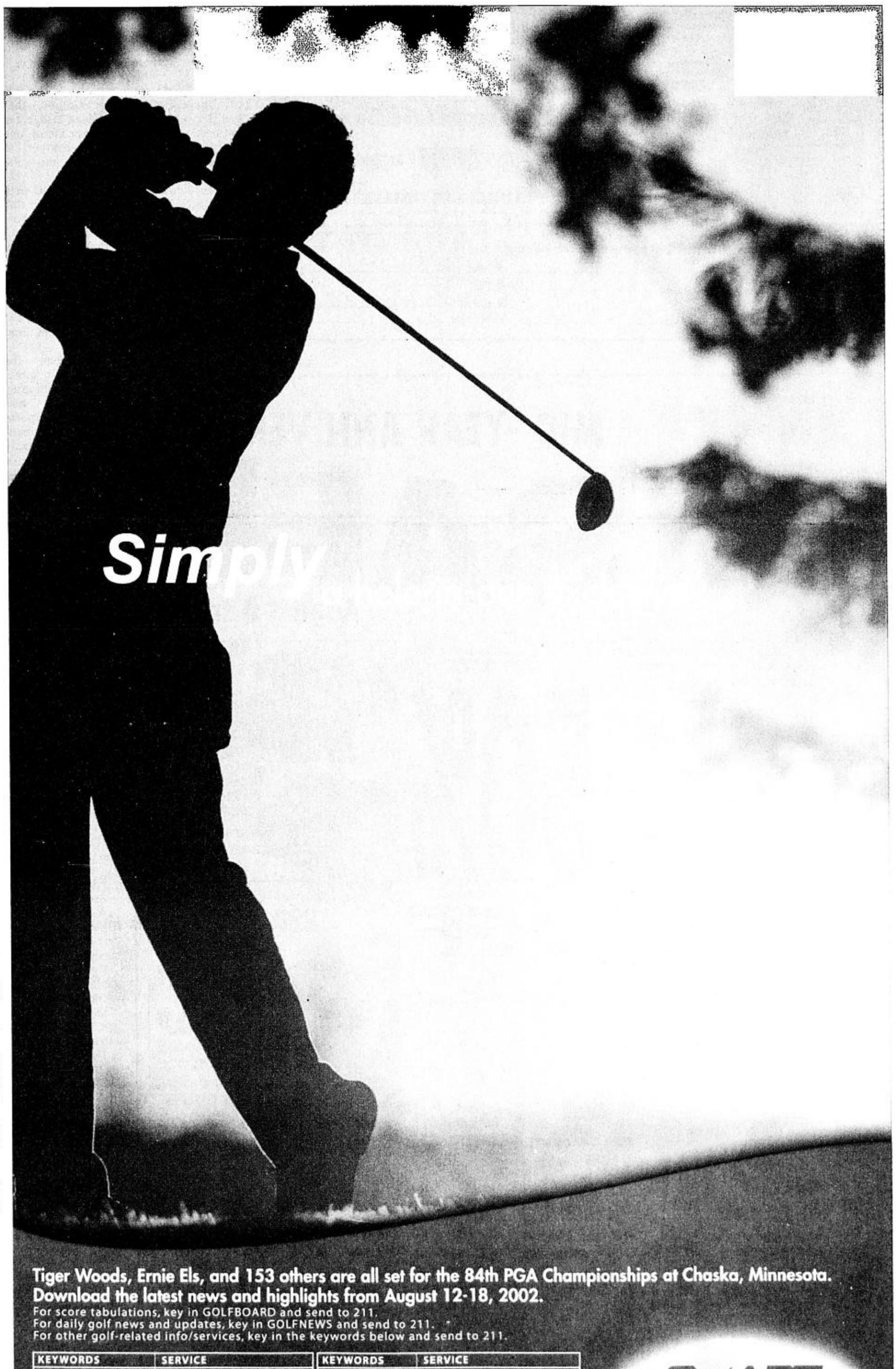
Strunk is in the United States, but he has been charged as a principal in the case, together with Medel.

The NBI also charged three Atlanta Centre building security guards with obstruction of justice.

Blanca was found murdered in her car at the Atlanta Centre in San Juan last year.

Strunk has claimed that he could not come back to the country because he does not have plane fare. But Wycoco has noted that Strunk used Blanca's credit card as recently as April this year.

The NBI director said Torres had told him that Strunk charged some of his expenses to Blanca's credit cards.



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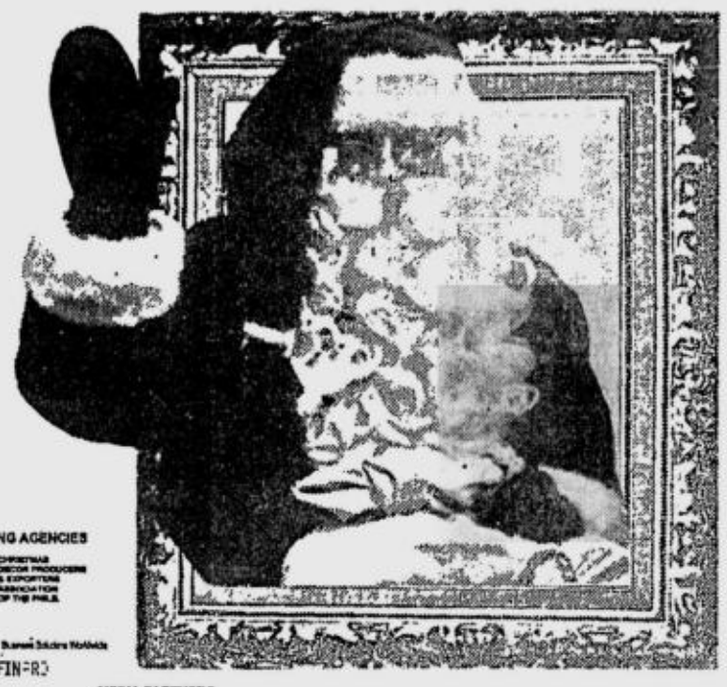

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Under GMA, no need to take bus in order to be robbed

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IN LESS than three minutes, eight armed men held up about 50 passengers of an air-conditioned bus in Mandaluyong City on Saturday morning. The news report, which came out in yesterday's Malaya, saw print a day after the Inquirer bared that Pagcor will flood RP with slot machines.

Listen. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who has vowed to shield the public from cheats and criminals, is right in believing that *jueteng* and jackpot don't rhyme.

Indeed, they don't. But you don't have to be exactly streetwise, you need not be an alley cat to realize that the slot machine is not a form of entertainment, or an ordinary video game.

The slot machine, which Pagcor has threatened to ram down the throat of the populace, mainly the hapless, mindless *masa*, is the very same jackpot box that has been notoriously branded as the "One-armed Bandit."

It is a trickier, more evil version of the video *karera* games which Manila Mayor Lito Atienza loves to burn in public.

Which simply means that, under President Arroyo, the poor daily wage earner need not ride a bus in order to be held up.

With the able support of the Pagcor, she will make sure people will not miss being robbed neat by these legalized bandits.

***

That Malaya crime report said the robbers spent less than three minutes -- they boarded the bus on Guadalupe Bridge, announced the heist on Pioneer Street, and got off at the corner of Reliance Street -- in divesting the victims of cash and valuables.

That could be a record of sorts, although sleepy members of the Mandaluyong City Police cannot be expected to deny or confirm this.

What's really clear is that, in the case of the slot machines, Pagcor would succeed in making the President make a fool of herself.

As the Inquirer special report on the slot machines noted, the move will shift the stigma of legalized gambling from Erap Estrada to *Ate* Glo.

As proof, the same report noted, "the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, a government corporation directly under the Office of the President, has embarked on an ambitious program and has approved at least 20 arcade projects that will flood the country with thousands of additional slot machines."

These slot machine arcades, the special report continued, will add a total of some 2,000 slot machines to Pagcor's complement of 3,000.

***

We won't let this drag. We don't have the luxury of time.

We have to condemn this desperate move by the Pagcor in the strongest possible terms.

This is a call for the Church and all other concerned groups to join hands and make the President wake up.

If she, as she has been professing, wanted to protect the public, mainly the poor *masa*, from assorted evils lurking in our midst, she must recall this Pagcor order. Right now.

We may have to again call on Bishop Oscar Cruz of Pangasinan, who has made a gallant stand against the *jueteng* lords in Pangasinan, to help fight the damning threat of these Malacañang-approved bandits lording it in our city streets.

Of course, we need not go far. We have to direct our call to the people close to GMA, for them to tell their boss that even a dazed Erap Estrada failed to muster enough guts to let loose these one-armed bandits against the helpless public.

***

How did the President get blinded again?

Somebody suggested that, at the rate she has been exposed to gigantic problems and blinding studio lights, GMA could have been rendered naïve like Ninoy Aquino's youngest daughter.

Let's hope not. As the chief PR man at Pagcor said, it was all a "business decision."

Gryk Ortaleza said Pagcor aimed to be "a global corporation with a global mindset and a Filipino heart."

We know Ortaleza to have had aspired to poetry under Ms Ophie Dimalanta. But, pardon my saying this: what's truly clear is that geniuses at Pagcor appear to know the poor Pinoy by heart.

They know where to hit him: in his pocket where he's most vulnerable.

In truth and in fact, though, Pagcor admitted that it had to resort to the slot machines out of desperation.

"At the end of the month," Ortaleza reluctantly admitted, "it's zero-zero for Pagcor. All the money goes out, *labas lahat 'yan*.

Ortaleza said they had to turn to the slot machines "otherwise they will stagnate."

Nice sales pitch. But the President may yet reconsider if she's told where the souls of the geniuses who invented the slot machines have ended.

Definitely not resting in peace, Madame President.

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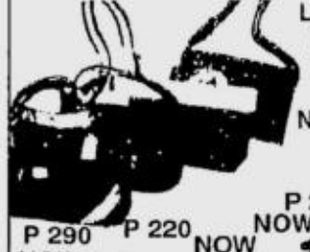

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Fernando cannot . . .

From p. A25

Añana recalled that in a meeting last July, the President asked government agencies to first conduct dialogues with affected parties before implementing infrastructure projects.

Despite raging protests against the MMDA drive, Fernando had ordered the demolition of buildings and other structures blocking sidewalks and waterways.

He said first to go would be vendors occupying key portions of Commonwealth Avenue and the annex of a Mitsubishi Motors building in Quezon City.

The annex supposedly blocks the flow of a nearby creek, causing flooding in the Roxas District.

Last week, Fernando had said that MMDA workers who seize and throw away the merchandise of sidewalk vendors are following the law.

"The personnel have been instructed to confiscate and destroy the wares lest they be accused of taking an interest in the wares," he explained. "They cannot keep the items for themselves."

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said the MMDA men are merely enforcing the ordinance passed in the last Metro Manila Council meeting declaring all objects on the sidewalks as common garbage.

Lacuna said there are no exemptions to this rule and the MMDA would not return the confiscated wares to the vendors to prevent the vendors from returning to the sidewalks.

Lacuna said the MMDA issues a warning to the vendors a few days or weeks before the clearing operations.

Asked about accusations of human rights violations, Fernando said: "We are not violating their human rights. Removing vendors from sidewalks is part of our operations. They are the ones who are not in their proper place."

He admitted that some skirmishes are expected because vendors resist.

He pointed out that vendors are depriving ordinary people of the use of sidewalks.

"The rich go shopping in the malls," he said. "It is the poor who are on the streets and cannot use the sidewalks because they are being blocked by vendors."

Parsons hits . . .

From p. A25

In an interview with the Inquirer, Parsons said police inexplicably filed charges of the light and bailable offense of robbery in band against Joram Gacete when they should have filed the graver and non-bailable charges of illegal possession of firearms, violation of the Commission on Elections gun ban and attempted homicide.

He said Gacete was among the six armed men who had barged into his home and robbed his family on July 18.

Parsons, Jose Nabiola in real life, said an unlicensed revolver was found on Gacete while he was undergoing treatment for gunshot wounds at the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center in Marikina. He said Gacete had tried to kill him with the same gun.

Gacete was nearly released from detention last Thursday by Marikina Regional Trail Court Branch 192 Judge Geraldine Macaraig because of the inexcusable negligence of the police, Parsons said.

"But with our timely motion to amend the charges to include the illegal possession of firearms, frustrated homicide and violation of the Comelec gun ban charges his release was stopped," Parsons said.

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8	MEN IN BLACK 2
9	HIGH EXPLOSIVE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	
2	
3	
4	GALING MO BABES
5 (SDDS)	URAGON
6	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
7 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
8	SAGAD

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	GALING MO BABES
2	SAGAD
3 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	URAGON
5 (SDDS)	WINDTALKERS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	URAGON

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	URAGON

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	GALING MO BABES SUGAT

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	URAGON
2	GALING MO BABES
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	GALING MO BABES
3	PAKI SABI NA LANG
4	URAGON
5	SAGAD

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	
2	

Berma
TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 67

1	URAGON
2	SAGAD

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	40 URAGON
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	URAGON
2 (DTS)	GALING MO BABES
3 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	ALL ABOUT A BOY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	URAGON
2 (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
3 (DTS)	ALL ABOUT A BOY
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	GALING MO BABES
2	PAKI SABI NA LANG
3	MEGGIDO
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	PAKI SABI NA LANG
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DOLBY)	MEGGIDO
4 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
2	SAGAD
3	URAGON
4 (DTS)	GALING MO BABES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DTS)	ALL ABOUT A BOY
4	URAGON
5	DOG SOLDIER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	URAGON
3	GALING MO BABES

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	GALING MO BABES
2	URAGON
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MEGIDDO
2	URAGON
3	PAKI SABI NA LANG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

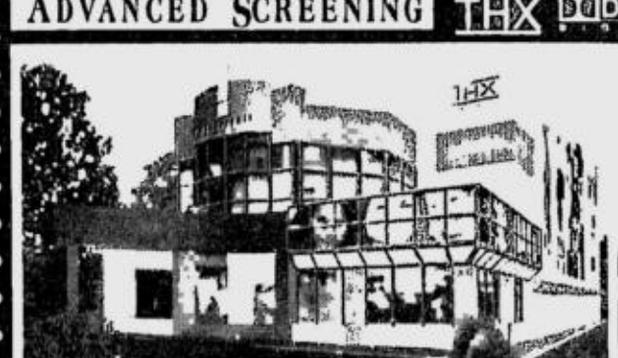
1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	GALING MO BABES
3	WINDTALKERS
4	PAKI SABI NA LANG

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	PAKI SABI NA LANG
3 (DTS)	SORORITY BOYS
4	URAGON

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING — THX — DOLBY DIGITAL — dts — SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING
5:00 PM , 7:30PM, 10:00 PM

about a boy

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	KILLING ME SOFTLY
2	ANG GALING-GALING MO
3	WINDTALKERS
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	8 LEGGED FREAKS
6	D' URAGONS
7	SAGAD
8	ABOUT A BOY

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 -7161416

1	WINDTALKERS
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	D' URAGONS
6	SAGAD
7	STUART LITTLE 2
8	SORORITY BOYS
9	ANG GALING-GALING MO
10	PAKISABI NA LANG...

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	ABOUT A BOY
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG...
4	WINDTALKERS
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	D' URAGONS
7	8 LEGGED FREAKS
8	ANG GALING-GALING MO
9	SORORITY BOYS
10	SAGAD
11	MEN IN BLACK 2
12	MEGIDDO

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	8 LEGGED FREAKS
3	MEGIDDO
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	WINDTALKERS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	SAGAD
9	D' URAGONS
10	MEN IN BLACK 2
11	PAKISABI NA LANG...
12	ANG GALING-GALING MO

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG...
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	WINDTALKERS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	MEGIDDO
9	D' URAGONS
10	8 LEGGED FREAKS
11	ANG GALING-GALING MO
12	SAGAD

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	MEGIDDO
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	ANG GALING-GALING MO
4	D' URAGONS
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	KILLING ME SOFTLY
7	8 LEGGED FREAKS
8	WINDTALKERS

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888

1	KILLING ME SOFTLY
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	PAKISABI NA LANG...
7	D' URAGONS
8	WINDTALKERS
9	ANG GALING-GALING MO
10	SAGAD

SM CITY CEBU 2313876

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	SORORITY BOYS
4	DOG SOLDIERS
5	D' URAGONS
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	ANG GALING-GALING MO
8	8 LEGGED FREAKS

SM CITY ILOILO 3209422

1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
2	CLOSED
3	D' URAGONS
4	8 LEGGED FREAKS
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	BIG FAT LIAR
7	CLOSED
8	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	ANG GALING-GALING MO
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	KILING ME SOFTLY
6	D' URAGONS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT 8294975

1	WINDTALKERS
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	D' URAGONS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302

1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
2	ABOUT A BOY
3	PAKISABI NA LANG...
4	D' URAGONS

SM CITY DAVAO 2976998

1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	WINDTALKERS
4	D' URAGONS
5	DOG SOLDIERS
6	MEGIDDO

SM BICUTAN

1	
2	SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
3	
4	

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
2	
3	
4	

THE PODIUM CINEMA

16 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
8389761-65 loc 120

1 — KILLING ME SOFTLY
12:35 MF, 2:40, 4:45, 6:50, 8:50
10:40 LFS, 11:00 LMF, 12:40 END

2 — ABOUT A BOY
12:35 MF, 2:40, 4:45, 6:50, 8:50
10:40 LFS, 11:00 LMF, 12:40 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 • Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate : P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

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CINEMAS
MOVIEWORLD
@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632- 9115- 16 / 633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	ABOUT A BOY
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	MEGIDDO
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	WINDTALKERS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	URAGONS
9	GALING MO BABES
10	STUART LITTLE 2

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1	WINDTALKERS
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	URAGONS
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	GALING MO BABES
6	ABOUT A BOY
7	KILLING ME SOFTLY

Metro East - Marcos Hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	ABOUT A BOY
4	URAGONS
5	WINDTALKERS
6	GALING MO BABES
7	
8	

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6	GALING MO BABES
7	URAGONS
8	

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	WINDTALKERS
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	GALING MO BABES
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	URAGONS

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	PAKI SABI NA LANG
4	WINDTALKERS
5	WALK TO REMEMBER
6	BIG FAT LIAR

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	WINDTALKERS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	BIG FAT LIAR
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	URAGONS
6	ALL ABOUT BENJAMINS

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 / 961 5318 / 5270

1	URAGONS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	GALING MO BABES
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	WINDTALKERS

malabon citisquare- soon to open.

Late Night Screening

heather graham joseph fiennes
killing me softly
on
August 9 -10, 2002 / Friday & Saturday - 11pm. @
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

how-2-reach-us:
email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Cesar back in Brisbane with Ben, Joseph and James

From p. A29

anyone."

Room with a view

He emerged 22 pounds lighter after the training. From 180, he's now down to 158 pounds.

During the filming, Cesar is billeted in an apartment with a breathtaking view in Goldcoast. His living room verandah is overlooking the beach.

When the cameras started to grind for "The Great Raid," Cesar experienced the discipline of being part of a Hollywood production.

"Everything is done on the dot and you can't be late," said the actor, who celebrated his 38th birthday on the set last Aug. 1. "When they say you will be fetched at 4:35 a.m., you'll see the vehicle is there on time. The one-hour lunch break does not extend. We work strictly for only 12 hours a day and never more than that. Otherwise, everyone on the set has to be paid double, from the cast down to the production staff and crew."

Cabanatuan

Cesar said the filmmaking style of "The Great Raid" director Dahl is not far from that of **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**, who directed him in such critically acclaimed and award winning films as "Jose Rizal," "Muro-Ami" and "Bagong Buwan."

Cesar's award-winning performance in "Muro-Ami" clinched "The Great Raid" project for him.

"I sent them an original DVD of 'Muro-Ami' as part of my audition. Soon after, I was called for the part."

"The Great Raid," a $150-million production of Miramax Films, recreates the World War II battle in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija. The Turtle Rock in Brisbane substitutes as a backdrop for Cabanatuan.

"You should see how they recreated Cabanatuan in Brisbane," Cesar said. "They planted coconut trees on two hectares and they even built a Philippine village which looks so real."

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GALING GALING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	D' URAGONS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WINDTALKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ABOUT A BOY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SAGAD
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PAGSAMAAN / 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
ODEON	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
ODEON-2	REPLICANT / HARI NG SELDA
ROBEN	SAGAD
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	JIHAD WARRIOR / NOT ANOTHER THING

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	SAGAD
REMAR	SAGAD
REMAR-2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAK

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	D' URAGONS
B	SAGAD
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-2	WINDTALKERS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GALING GALING
CINEMA-2	PAKISABI NA LANG
CINEMA-3	SAGAD
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	D' URAGONS
CINEMA-6	MEGGIDO
CINEMA-7	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-8	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-12	ABOUT A BOY
CINEMA-14	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-15	D' URAGONS

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-6	SELDA

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

OPENS WEDNESDAY!

COMING SOON!

MTRCB RATING PG-13 — Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

Angora Films Released

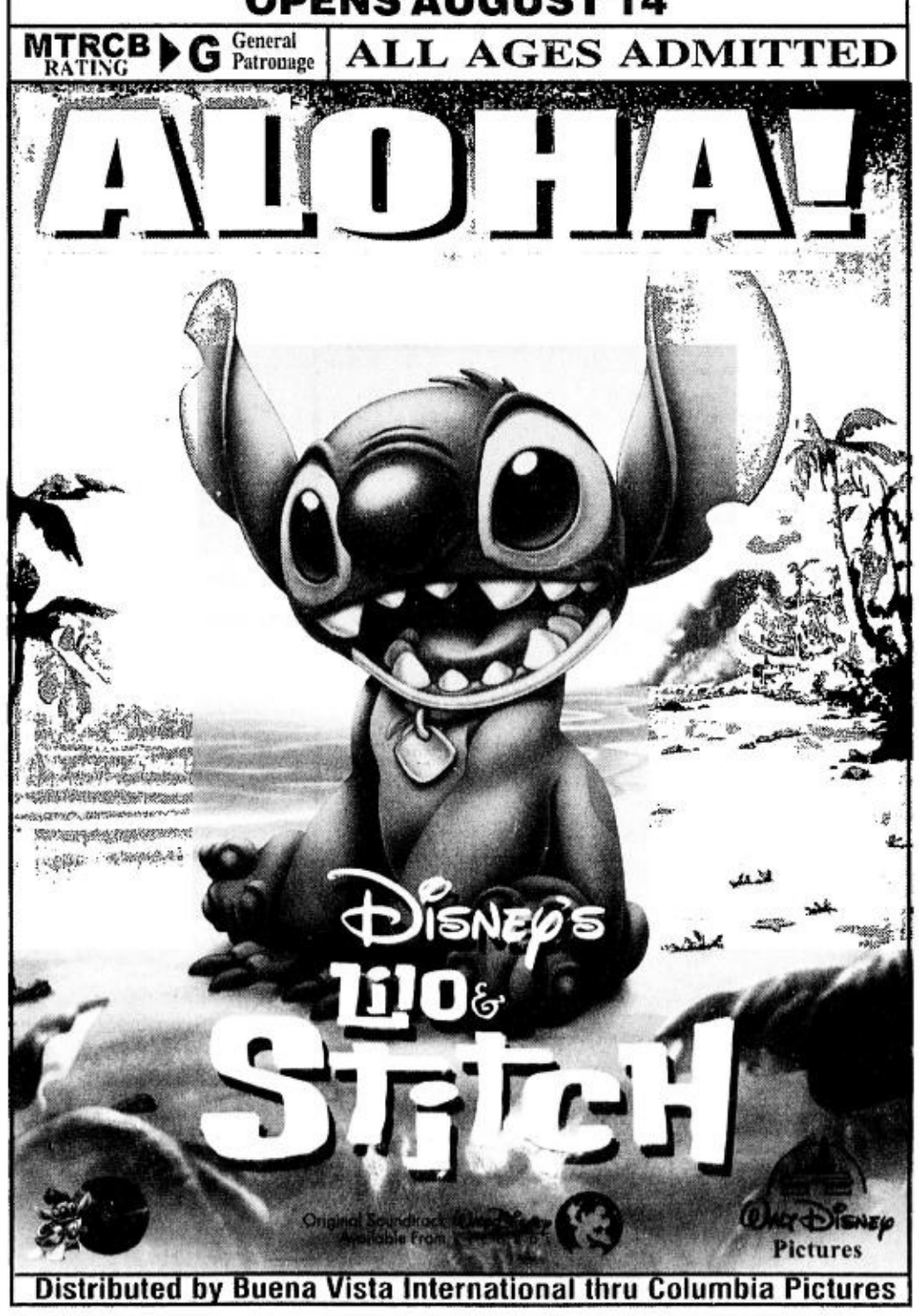
Sam Elliott
Anne Ramsay

A Mad Bomber, on the City of the Edge!

A MAGICAL DISNEY TREAT FOR MOVIEGOERS OF ALL AGES!

OPENS AUGUST 14

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage — ALL AGES ADMITTED



Cesar back in Brisbane with Ben, Joseph and James

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

CESAR Montano's Nokia 6210-I rings. He checks the caller ID and says, "*Si* **Bruce Willis**."

Then he asks his son **Angelo** to take the call. "*Sabihin mo* busy *ako*."

Right now, a Hollywood actor calling up Cesar is no longer such a far-out idea. These days, Cesar is on a first-name basis with the likes of **Benjamin Bratt** and **Joseph Fiennes**, his costars in the Hollywood movie, "The Great Raid," now being filmed in Brisbane, Australia.

"I couldn't believe it, even when I was already there," said Cesar who was in town last week for a break after more than a month of filming in Brisbane.

Cesar returned to Australia Saturday night for another two months of filming, under director by **John Dahl**.

Cesar plays Capt. Juan Pajota, the leader of the Filipino guerilla force that fought with American troops in the Philippines during World War II.

Gentleman Ben

Cesar's other costars in "The Great Raid" are **James Franco**, who played the best friend of **Tobey Maguire** in "Spiderman"; **Connie Nielsen**, the sister of **Joaquin Phoenix** in the Oscar Best Picture "Gladiator"; and Fil-Am actor **Paolo Montalban**, the Prince in the modern version of "Cinderella," which starred singer **Brandy**.

Bratt was better known as the former boyfriend of **Julia Roberts**.

"Ben is a a real gentleman," said Cesar of Bratt. "He calls me 'Brown Brother' since he is Peruvian. He's a very down-to-earth person. I bought a copy of Vanity Fair and asked him to autograph it for **Sharon (Cuneta)**—'for the sex-bomb in Manila'—because she had been texting me and asking about Ben while I was in Australia."

Soft-spoken

Fiennes, who plays the role of Major Gibson, is best remembered for his role in another Oscar winner, "Shakespeare in Love," opposite **Gwyneth Paltrow**. "He is very soft-spoken, very far from his character in 'Shakespeare in Love'," said Cesar of Fiennes.

He said Franco is going to be the next big star in Hollywood. "He has a movie coming up with **Robert de Niro**," Cesar said.

In "The Great Raid," Franco is Capt. Robert Prince.

Cesar left the country last June 13 and immediately immersed himself in combat training in a boot camp for two weeks, with American, Japanese, Australian and Filipino actors.

Life in the boot camp was far from easy. There was no electricity, they slept in tents, cooked their own meals and washed their own laundry. Shower was a luxury. They skipped breakfast and ate only two meals a day.

Tormenting

In the boot camp, Cesar woke up at 5 a.m. and had a 45-minute physical training, followed by jogging for four miles and push-ups.

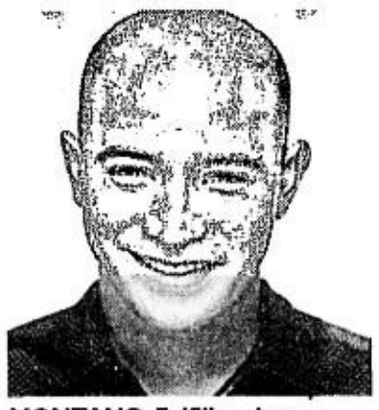
"It's winter there," Cesar said. "The temperature goes down to 0 degrees and it was tormenting when we had to go out and jog."

They returned to the boot camp at sundown, and individually prepared their dinner. They built their own fire in front of their tents to cook dinner.

"We were given meal packs containing beans, potatoes, vegetables and meat, with chocolates or candies for dessert. I learned how to cook porridge in different ways."

After dinner, the men gathered around a bonfire for a "standdown," where they were given lessons in World War II by Capt. **Dale Dye**, who also trained the actors in such war films as "Saving Private Ryan" and "Platoon."

The night activity after 10 p.m. was even more grueling. They were deployed to an open field where a Japanese attack was "staged."



MONTANO. Fulfills a dream.

Homesick

To battle homesickness at night, Cesar did a Chuck Nolan (**Tom Hanks**) in "Castaway" and held the photos of his wife **Sunshine Cruz** and their 10-month-old baby **Angelina Isabel**.

Cesar even learned to wash his own clothes while in boot camp. The image model of Hanford underwear brought only three pairs of Hanford briefs to the two-week training.

"We didn't bring too many clothes so we didn't have to do the laundry every day," he said. "When we washed our clothes, it had to be in a hurry. I just dipped the shirts in the water, squeezed them dry and hung them.

"We had to get the laundry before nighttime, because when it got cold, the clothes would get wet again."

During the training, a number of actors wanted to back out and leave the production.

"I myself was getting exhausted, but I kept on encouraging the guys in my troop, telling them we could all do it. I didn't show them any pain nor did I complain to

CESAR/ p. A28

Shaky start for Allan K on 'TWL'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE made it a point to catch **Allan K**'s first outing as **Edu Manzano**'s replacement on "The Weakest Link," to see how he would measure up. Well, the comedian-singer really worked hard at keeping the show tight and peppy, but he ended up doing pretty much what Edu has been doing on the show these past months—unfortunately, with little of Edu's flair.

Maybe that's why the comedian-contestants that night occasionally answered back or openly disagreed with Allan, something that contestants never dared to do when Edu was in snitty charge of things.

If the situation continues to deteriorate, there could be outright anarchy on the show. That would never do!

After all, "The Weakest Link" is designed to be stressful. If the contestants start having too much rowdy fun on the program, it would lose its quintessentially psychological edge.

Allan being a more "masa" talent, we don't expect him to try to duplicate Edu's classy pose and fastidious snootiness. He *should* create his own persona—but not to the extent of making the contestants think that they're his equals (or, worse, superiors).

After all, the show's title is "The Weakest Link," not "The Cutest Twink." The operative word is link, meaning a part of a chain, further meaning constriction, control.

On Allan's first "TWL" show, the celebrity contestants started off well, but soon frittered their advantage away, thus ending up with the final strongest link winning only P114,000, out of a possible million bucks.

When the field was cut down to three, our interest increased because the "survivors," **Giselle Sanchez**, **Beverly Salviejo** and **Malu de Guzman**, were talents we'd worked with early in their careers.

Giselle was supposed to be the "beauty and brains" member of the group, since she graduated magna cum laude from UP. But she was the first of the three to be eliminated, possibly because she was a threat to the other finalists' dream of victory.

Or, also quite possibly, because she had come up with one of the evening's biggest and funniest mistakes:

Quizmaster: If NCR means National Capital Region, what does CAR mean?

Giselle (after thinking long and hard): —*Kotse*!

(The correct answer, of course, is Cordillera Administrative Region.)

Why did brainy Giselle make such a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious mistake? Because she was *too* brainy. As she herself explained, blushing and giggling all the while, she thought it was a trick question, and came up with too clever an answer!

Another "outstanding" booboo that night went something like this:

Quizmaster: *Ano ang tawag sa taong may katangian ng dalawang* sexes?

Contestant (again after thinking long and hard): Heterosexual!

(No, hermaphrodite!)

After Giselle was voted out, Malu and Beverly had a "double your money" round that ended up doubling nothing, because they banked zero money. Then came the one-on-one championship round, which Malu won.

We're glad that *some* money was won and the contestants appeared to have a good time—but they were enjoying themselves too much for the specific purposes of the show, and new quizmaster Allan K has his work cut out for him to better rationalize his participation in and control over "The Weakest Link."

Unless he asserts himself in his own, original way, he will continue to be unfairly compared to the show's former resident quizmaster-dominator, and the program could grow weaker and weaker in the weeks to come.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1
WINDTALKERS
11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
P 13
CINEMA 2
ABOUT A BOY
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
P 13
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Scurry . . .

From p. A30

It may impress kids (since it's a PG-13 movie), but if you're looking for good monster flicks, just go to your nearest video shop and rent VCDs or VHS tapes of Cameron's "Aliens" or the first "Jurassic Park." In fact, you'll enjoy a slasher whodunit even better than this yawner.

But if you really want to watch a monster flick, "Dog Soldiers" is still screening. It has a wafer-thin plot like this movie, but "Dog" is filled with sick, realistic gore that's the stuff of nightmares.

What's next, I wonder. Mutant rats, gigantic crocs or snakes? But wait, they've been done to death too. Has the well run dry for really good, exciting, suspenseful creature features?

Scurry away from this one. You have been warned.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

ARACHNOPHOBIC hell

'EIGHT-LEGGED FREAKS'

Scurry away from this one, quick!

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

HOT ON on the heels of the sleeper UK hit "Dog Soldiers" is yet another monster movie that isn't for everyone, just rabid fans of B-movie mayhem.

Young engineer Chris Mc Cormick (David Arquette) returns to his hometown, a desolate Arizona mining community called Prosperity, which is anything but prosperous since the unemployment rate is getting higher by the day. He pursues his childhood crush, the working mother/town sheriff Sam Parker (Kari Wuhrer), who has two spunky kids who get into typical trouble once in a while.

But the mundaneness of the town quickly disappears as chemical waste dumped in the area creates mutated grasshoppers.

The movie is an homage to '50s alien/monster flicks that became a genre in themselves and inspired modern-day science fiction Hollywood movies and low-budget film-monstrosities. Even the title "Attack of the Clones" was inspired by the camp, mysterious, post-World War II films that were dismissed by some as anti-Communist sentiments of the filmmakers that were ethereally present during the era. This era produced some really good directors and actors who gained immortality by becoming cult favorites.

No plot at all

The latest offering of co-producer Dean Devlin and executive producer Roland Emmerich has neither the ambitiousness nor scale of their "Independence Day" or "Stargate" moneymakers. The last of their creature flicks, "Godzilla", was a critical and commercial flop, and could have easily passed for a big-budgeted B-movie itself.

The smaller, more contained feel of their current movie can be construed as another attempt at winning back viewers who were lost after the pair's past successes. Directed by Ellory Elkayem, "Eight Legged Freaks" continues their tradition of shallow, predictable fun, a special effects movie that has no plot whatsoever.

This movie will give you arachnophobia, but not in that real sense. After one viewing, you'll stay far away from it as far as possible, thinking of futile ways of bringing back time. You can start it at the middle and not miss a thing.

It's so bad, it's almost good—if you're drunk, or haven't seen a man-versus-movie your whole life.

Terrible, terrible

The sheriff's young son, the brainiac boy Mike (Scott Terra), is smarter than everyone else combined in the movie. He talks like a teen refugee from "Dawson's Creek" and is self-aware to the point of knowing that nobody will listen to him because he's a kid, until it's almost too late.

It's not funny or charming at all, if that was the intent.

There's the token black guy/conspiracy theorist whose paranoia is confirmed by an assault of creatures that aren't from outer space. Harlan (Doug E. Doug) has a lot of unrealized potential but his performance and presence is badly hampered by terrible, terrible dialogue.

Arquette and Wuhrer play the lovestruck characters who may as well have been people in their late teens instead of adults with serious occupations. You really won't care, they're just giant-spider fodder.

Worthy effects

These are talented actors who have made good names for themselves, but I suppose their careers wouldn't be complete without the obligatory effects-laden camp classic (if such a term can apply in the future).

But the effects are respectable. The combination of CGI with animatronics (for spider carcasses) makes for breathtaking, realistic humongous arachnids.

There's a variety of species of spiders, so some of them leap, and others are just astounding even if they're crawling, their size the main source of fear for the viewers. The effects for a particular scene, where the cat becomes spider-food in a wall panel, is memorable.

If you don't care much for your movie money, then the effects will make it worth it for you.

Nothing new

John Ottoman's music is also good. He comes up with appropriately foreboding music that's reminiscent of old Hammer horror films with touches of the score from "Jaws."

The actors don't act badly. They do look horrified at images that were superimposed later. It's just that there isn't anything new to watch.

You've seen this many, many times before: Monsters that come out at night, and wreak havoc on a small, unsuspecting town. When all arachnophobic hell breaks loose, you couldn't care less anymore, and it would have been better if all the town's residents were devoured by the swarm of mutant web spinners.

If that happened, that would have been its redeeming twist, instead of leaving us with survivors to star in another (gasp!!!) bumbling sequel.

SCURRY / p. A29

Dero Pedero helps make dreams come true

DERO Pedero

PEOPLE have been very intrigued and are lining up to attend composer, writer and life-enhance coach Dero Pedero's much-acclaimed success seminar entitled "Make Your Impossible Dreams Come True!" Using the latest computer and video technology, Pedero unveils the universal principles, techniques and life-enhancing secrets that you can use to make your fondest and wildest dreams come true.

It all started with Pedero's own personal quest for meaning and direction in his life. He felt something was missing so he decided to look for it.

"I was quite successful in my songwriting and advertising career but my heart longed for something more significant and meaningful in life," he says. "I was bored and burnt out, and my soul yearned for something new to revitalize my life and fill it with a nobler sense of purpose.

"I had a deep thirst for knowledge that needed to be quenched."

Pedero's search brought him to New York and Los Angeles where he studied under some of the world's best teachers and success motivators. He attended the sellout seminars of New Millennium guru Iyanla Vanzant, media magnate Steve Scott, entrepreneurial expert Barbara J. Winter, promotions genius Carol Sapin Gold, Arista Records president Clive Davis, top Hollywood agent Jay Bernstein, and creativity specialist Sark. He took up Film Directing and Production with Dov Simens at the Hollywood Film Institute, studied Lighting for Film with Verne Carlson at the American Film Institute, and even took up the ancient Chinese art of Qi Jong under Enid Balin.

Excited to share the lessons and techniques he learned, he drew up a series of exciting personal improvement seminars to help bring out the best in very individual.

"We all want to change the world but that change has to start with ourselves," he says. "We have to see ourselves and the world in a new light.

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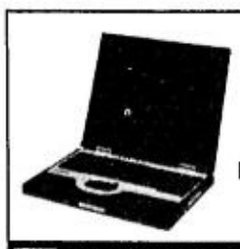
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Gov't OKs dollar-linked peso bond float worth ₱7B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT has approved the issuance of P7 billion worth of dollar-linked peso bonds next month to raise funds to bridge the country's widening budget gap.

The budget deficit hit P119.7 billion in the first half of the year. The amount was 50 percent more than the target for the period and 91 percent of the P130-billion deficit ceiling for the year.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said this was a good time to revive the dollar-linked bonds, which were first tried by the goverment last year, as the peso started acting up again.

Also called a dollar hedge, the instrument offers yields comparable to interest rates on dollar-denominated Philippine debt papers. It provides a hedge against a volatile local currency since the bonds will be repaid by the government based on the prevailing peso-dollar rate at the time of the maturity.

Edeza said the government was planning to tap the same group that underwrote last year's dollar-linked bond issue for the planned fund raising activity next month. The group is composed of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Multinational Investment Bancorporation and Deutsche Bank.

The bonds, according to Edeza, will likely come in two- and three-year maturity but added that the government was also considering five-year dollar-linked bonds.

He said this debt instrument could help stabilize the foreign exchange market since it was expected to drive big players away from the spot market.

However, investors were lukewarm on the issuance of the first batch of the dollar-linked bonds last year saying that for them to profit from the debt notes, the peso had to drop to 56 to $1, which did not happen.

The bonds are structured in such a way that when the peso weakens against the dollar at the time of the bond maturity, the investor gets more. But if the peso strengthens at the time of the maturity, the bondholder will get less from his investment.

The dollar-linked instrument was one of the several peso-propping measures that Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had proposed to the central bank when the local currency suffered from a bout of speculative attacks in the third quarter last year.

The central bank said dollar-hedge bonds discouraged people from buying dollars at the spot market.

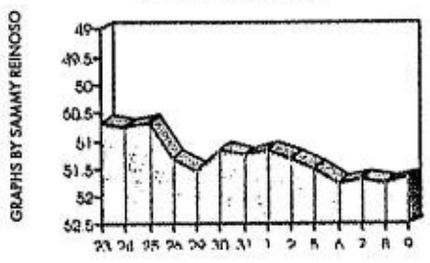
EDEZA

"This new instrument behaves like a dollar investment so these people will no longer need to buy dollars at the spot market," said a Bangko Sentral official.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY SAMMY REINOSO

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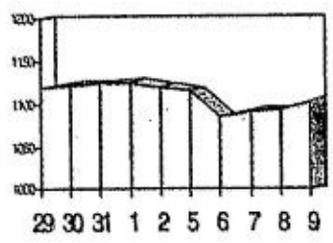
STOCK MARKET

Stocks to take cue from US rates

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

STOCKS are likely to remain vulnerable to anxieties over irregular movements in markets abroad, according to analysts, but some forms of relief are expected from a possible reduction in interest rates in the United States this week.

Analysts said the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index, which dipped last week by 1.49 percent to close at 1,102.37 on Friday, still lacked conviction for a rally, with poor value turnover remaining a problem.

A&A Securities Inc. research head Astro del Castillo said since the second-quarter corporate results of most blue chips had been released and were mostly unexciting, the market would instead take their cue from the overseas markets.

"The development in Brazil should be a booster, although that is still making investors cautious in investing in emerging markets," Del Castillo said, noting that the Phisix would likely drift sideways within a range of 1,080 and 1,120 this week.

The International Monetary Fund announced last week a $30-billion bailout package for Brazil to help avoid a default on over $200 billion in public debts by the biggest economy in Latin America.

STOCKS/ B6

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **SEC staying out of club brawl**/B2
- **Cocktales on pre-need shake-up** /B3
- **Dealers to wage legal battle vs used auto imports** /B9
- **UCPB not for sale, CEO clarifies** /B20

BSP sets probe of pre-need firms' trust funds

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is set to investigate trust funds of pre-need companies being held by banks acting as trustees.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in an interview that while the central bank had no direct authority over pre-need firms, it could check whether trustee banks were using the trust funds of these companies prudently.

The central bank's action comes in response to a request by the Securities and Exchange Commission to help it investigate whether trust funds of pre-need companies are being invested properly by trustee banks.

A trust fund is a critical component in the mechanism designed to guarantee the capacity of pre-need plan companies to meet their future obligations to stakeholders, according to the SEC.

The SEC sought the BSP's assistance after it was reported that College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. had a trust fund deficiency of around P2.5 billion.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said what the central bank could do, apart from determining whether the trust funds of pre-need companies were being used as intended, was to check whether the money in the trust funds came from planholders or were borrowed from banks.

"There could be cases wherein a pre-need company maintains money in the trust account of a bank, but this money is no longer the money of the planholders but was borrowed from the bank because the funds of the planholders were invested in other things," he said.

Buenaventura stressed, however, that the central bank had limited powers as regards the pre-need industry.

"We are only the peripheral regulator. We can only regulate the institution that manages the trust account. We have no authority over pre-need companies," he said.

In a report earlier this year, the SEC's non-traditional securities and instruments department said the accumulated trust fund deficiency of the pre-need plan industry went down to P746.5 million as of October 2001 from P3.9 billion as of December 2000.

As of 2001, the SEC said the pre-need industry had an aggre-

BSP/ B6

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SEC staying out of club brawl

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission will keep its hands off the Manila Polo Club boardroom brawl despite the calls made by the opposing parties for the SEC to step in and resolve the issue.

"If it's an intra-corporate dispute we have no jurisdiction," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said.

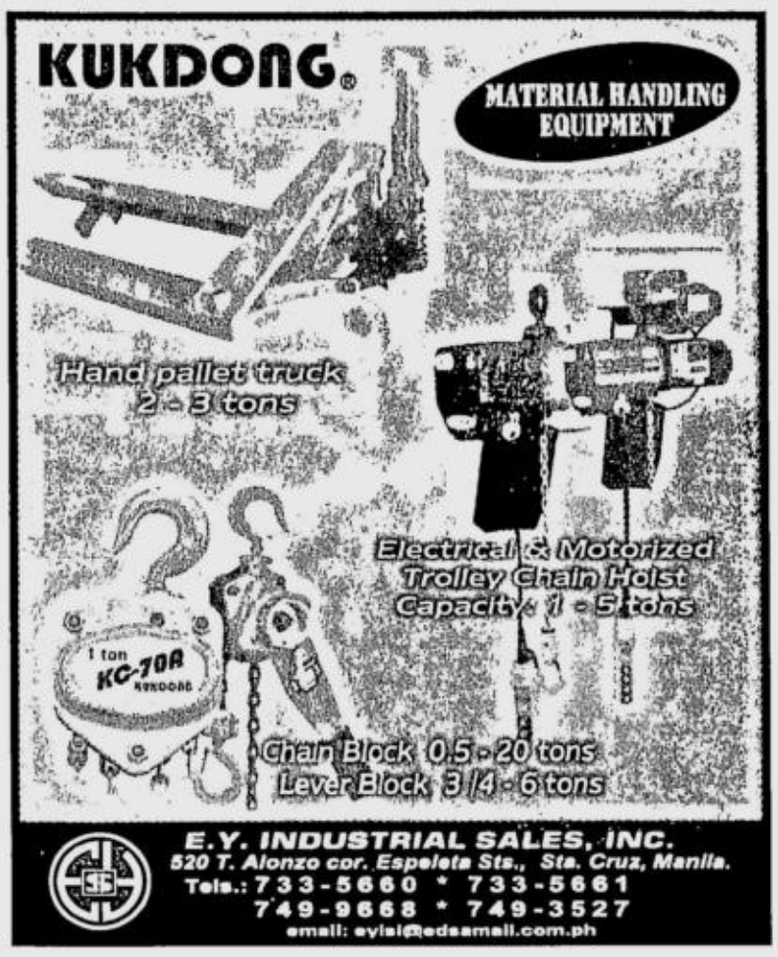
Former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo and former Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia Jr. have criticized the incumbent board of MPC for the imprudent management of the club. This, they alleged, resulted in losses of P79 million in the last four years in contrast to the board's report that it had generated P73.4 million in profits during the period.

MPC president Policarpo Ascalon denied the allegations and had challenged the board's critics to a public debate on Aug. 15. Later this month, MPC will hold its annual elections and five seats are up for grabs.

Bautista said she was asked by both parties to moderate a meeting between the two groups this week. She initially accepted on the condition that her participation would be on a personal and informal basis but later backed out.

"I hope they will be able to sort it out. We all agreed that the SEC should not be in the picture. They will have to sort it out among themselves," Bautista, who admitted she had close friends in both camps, said.

Earlier, Romulo said the SEC should drop its "hands-off policy" on disputes involving social clubs because these were no different from pre-need companies whose investments were regulated by the corporate watchdog.



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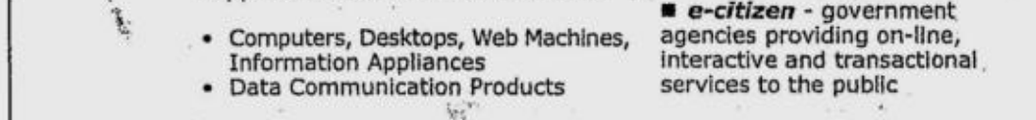

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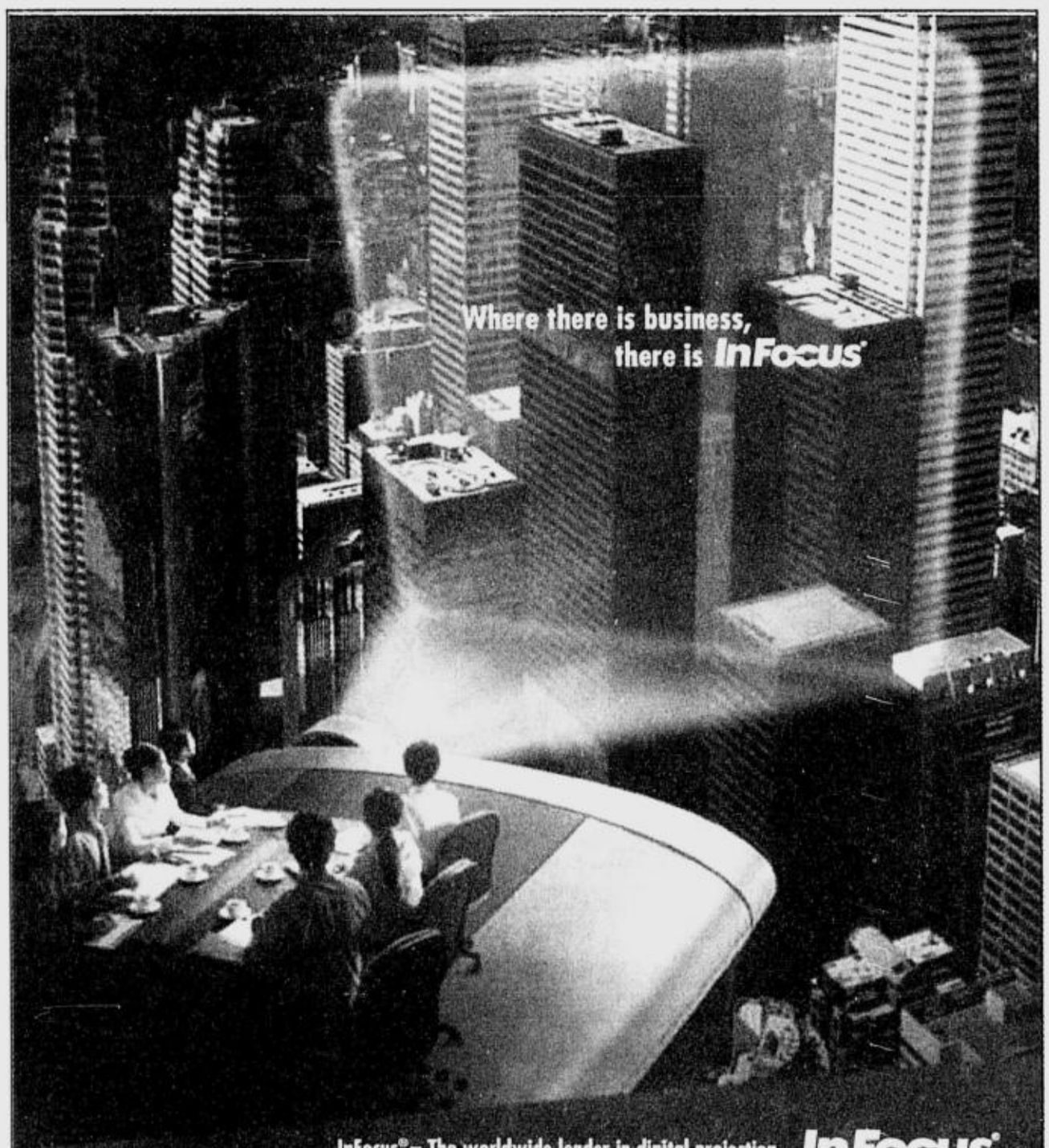

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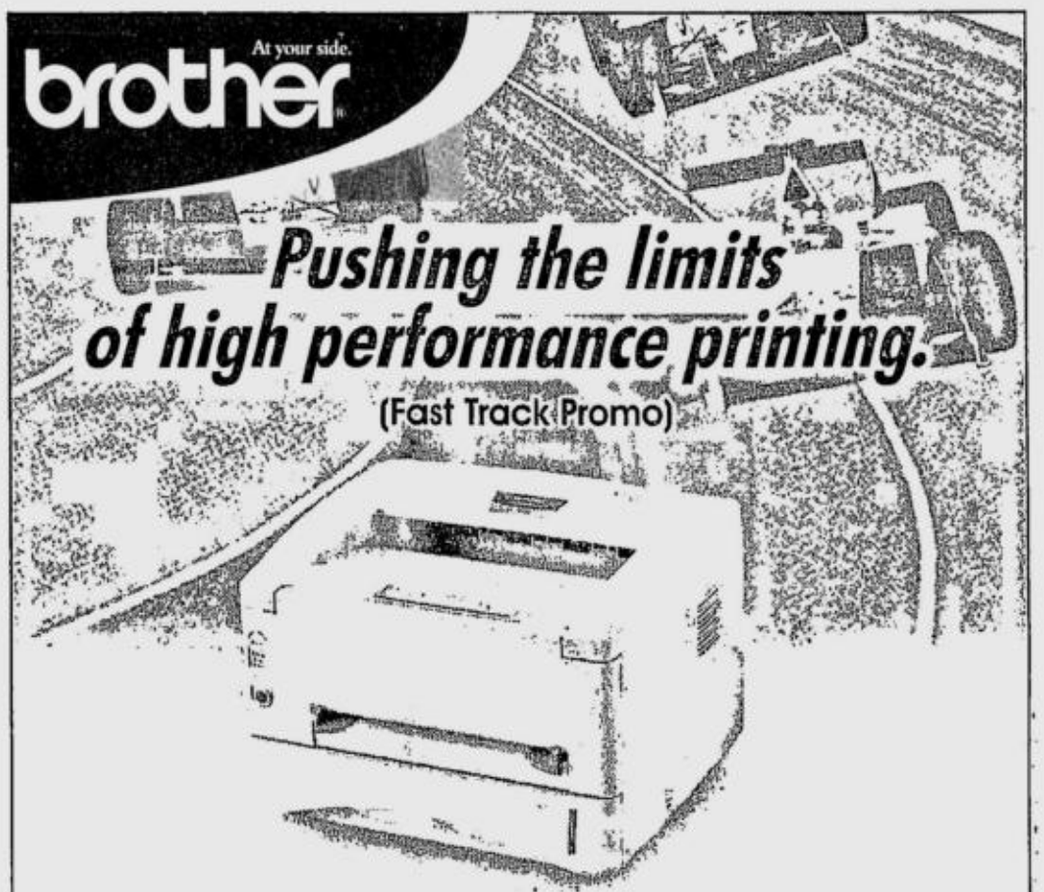

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Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 3502 Series of 2002

Pre-need shake-up

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

TOUGH competition and an even tougher business environment amid tougher regulations from the Securities and Exchange Commission are apparently taking their toll on a number of pre-need executives.

Three presidents of pre-need firms have lately resigned from their respective companies: Francisco Colayco (TPG Corp.), Damaso Magbual (Asian Diamond Plans) and Felipe Diego (Family First). Diego said he would move on to become the non-executive chair of Family First and its local parent, Berkly International.

In addition, three leading executives of Pacific Plans, Benigno Zialcita (chief operating officer), Norman Gonzalez (executive vice president) and Manuel Reyes (senior VP) have also flown the coop.

And the much-in-the-news College Assurance Plan, whose perennial trust fund deficiency is now the subject of a crusade by SEC Chair Lilia Bautista, has recently lost its actuarial officer, Odette Solis, to the competition.

Continuing her move to keep the industry in shape, the SEC chief is said to be looking into the valuation of a Tagaytay property that a pre-need company had put into its trust fund investment portfolio.

The pre-need company has managed to conjure a P244-million value for the 6-hectare property with no right-of-way access despite its being midway through a ridge with a 35-degree slope.

The property's declared market value is, by the way, just P610,640.

Ill-starred move

THE ILL-FATED Stars restaurant in Glorietta has been closed for some time now but one of its expatriate chefs, Filipino-American Salvador Trinidad, is still trying to collect $72,500 in back wages.

Trinidad was pirated from the acclaimed Stars restaurant in San Francisco in December 1998 to work for the similarly named fine dining place that was then being established in Makati by the Madrigals.

Trinidad was fired from the local Stars in January 2000, after he failed to get a working visa, prompting the chef to file an illegal dismissal case before the National Labor Relations Commission.

The *balikbayan* chef won the case in July 2000, with the NLRC ruling that it was incumbent upon the local Stars to secure the working permit of its expatriate staff.

Two years since that decision, Trinidad has yet to collect the award. Stars, in the meantime, had ceased as a corporation, and the Madrigal son-in-law in charge of the restaurant, investment banker Jose Armando Eduque, is still trying to keep bigger creditors at bay over the collapse of East Asia Capital.

Trinidad, who relocated his family here, is trying to survive the local scene by baking and supplying bakery products to hotels and restaurants.

Short takes

• THE GREAT Raid, the best-selling book based on the 1945 rescue of 500 American prisoners of war in Cabanatuan, will be made into a film, starring Joseph Fiennes and Benjamin Bratt. The book, and now the film, has placed Philippine bravery, as against Abu Sayyaf treachery, back on the map at least to the American reading public.

• THE ROCO Bunag Kapunan law firm has lost one of its name partners, Jose Bunag, over disagreements about fees accruing to its silent principal.

Bunag has decided to put up his own shingle; it is not immediately clear whether he brought with him clients from the old firm.

• HALF of the restaurants in the new Greenbelt 2 and 3 have yet to open but parking and gridlock are already a problem.

Just [illegible]ose who brought their cars to dine or see [illegible] in the new mall Friday night.

Heard through the grapevine

PART of [illegible]e P400-million windfall received by the fa[illegible]y of the late Goodwill Store patriarch Manuel Cancio from their American principals at Kimberly-Clark went to acquire the Dasmariñas Village house of Orly Ilacad, of the music recording fame, and a resort in Laguna, also acquired from the Ilacads.

Strangely, the Dasmariñas Village house and the Laguna resort were not collated in the second Cancio will now being probated before the Makati Regional Trial Court.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

OUTSIDE MAKATI CBD

ALI to sell non-core assets

By Doris C. Dumlao

PREMIER property developer Ayala Land Inc. said it would sell certain undeveloped assets outside the core Makati central business, including an 80-hectare raw land in Boracay which was intended for leisure development.

"Our strategic thrust has always been focused on Ayala Center. The rest is either for development or for sale," ALI vice president and comptroller Jaime Ysmael said in a recent interview.

Stock analysts estimated that ALI had about P7 billion worth of non-core undeveloped pieces of land, including the Boracay property, which could be sold.

But ALI does not have a specific timeframe in disposing of these assets.

"It depends on the market because there are also certain prices that we are targeting. We will not just unload for the sake of unloading ," Ysmael said.

Ysmael said the Boracay property, owned by ALI subsidiary Boracay Holdings, remained undeveloped for quite sometime now.

"Leisure (development) is an area that we're looking at, a gap that we'll address depending on the availability of property. The problem with the Boracay property is the lack of infrastructure in the area," Ysmael said.

"It's expensive to develop a property nowadays and for it to make sense, it has to be high-end, so it's difficult," he said noting that the Fil-Estate group's Fairways and Blue Waters was already catering to the upscale market in the area.

Ysmael also confirmed that there were other pieces of property within Makati but outside the central business district that ALI would like to sell.

ALI also plans to sell non-property assets such as its minority stake in the Metro Railway Transit Corp. and Makro Pilipinas, which, Ysmael estimated, had a combined book value of P2 billion.

ALI has a 28-percent stake in Pilipinas Makro, a joint venture with the Makro group of Netherlands and retail giant Henry Sy's SM Investments, that owned 38 percent and 30 percent of the retail firm, respectively. The Ayala property development firm owns a 15.8-percent stake in the MRT-3 project.

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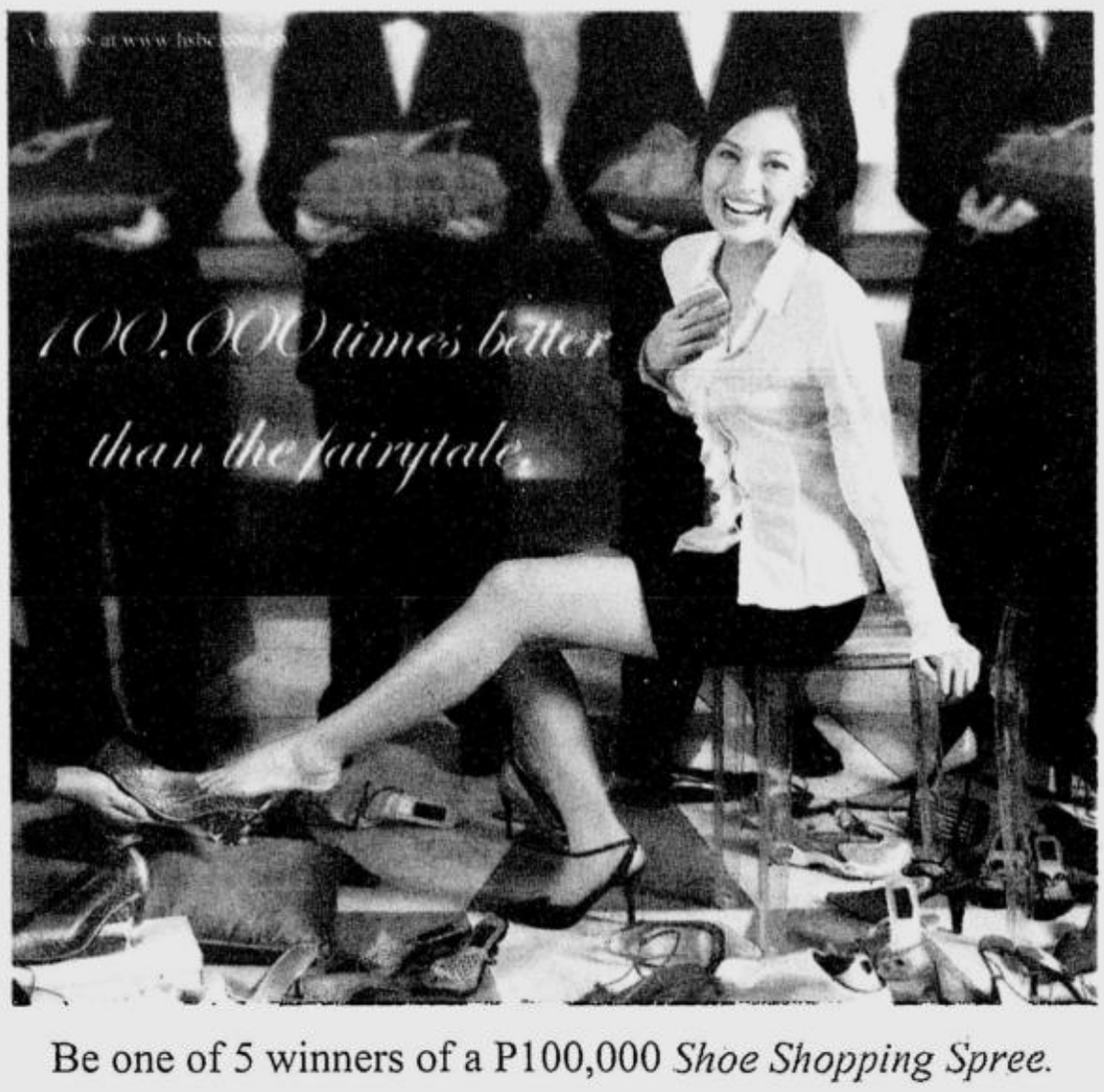

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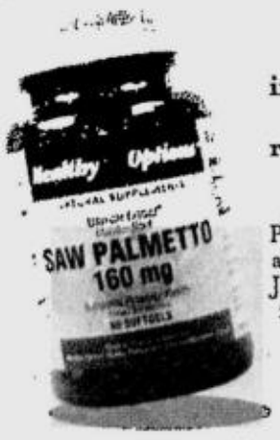

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Solons to seek higher deficit target for 2002

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE HOUSE of Representatives' finance committee is set to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic managers today to discuss the likelihood of raising the government's budget deficit target by at least P20 billion.

Persons familiar with the matter said lawmakers were seeking to raise the target from P130 billion to P150 billion.

They said a number of congressmen were already worried that the seeming determination of the country's economic team to meet this year's deficit target amid weak revenue collections might lead to huge cuts in their pork barrel.

The government's budget deficit has already swollen to P119.7 billion in the first six months of the year, nearly two-thirds of the year-round target.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, however, has rejected suggestions to revise the target higher, saying the government can still deal with the problem by pushing the collection side and imposing discipline on the spending side.

According to government sources, the House finance committee has sought a meeting with Camacho, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas, and the heads of the Bureaus of Internal Revenue, Customs and Treasury to discuss the likelihood of changing the target.

In a meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council last week, some lawmakers recommended a revision of the budget deficit target for 2003 to P155 billion from the economic managers' proposal of P138 billion, citing poor tax collections recorded by the internal revenue and customs bureaus so far this year.

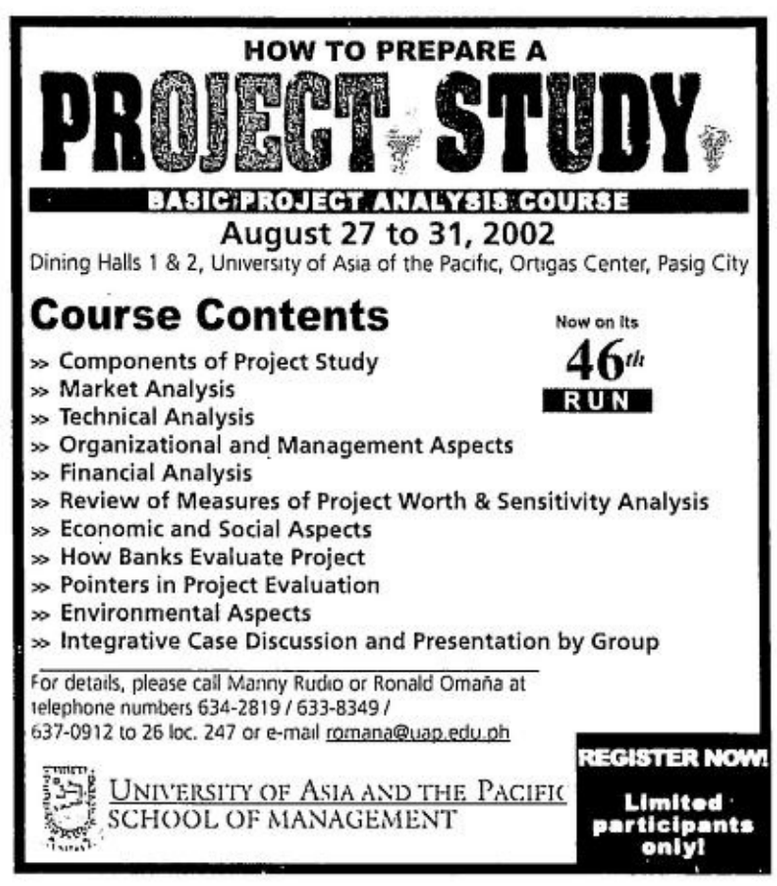
Sources said the House finance committee would use findings of a technical working group of the administration's economic team as a basis for supporting its position that the budget deficit target should be raised to P150 billion.

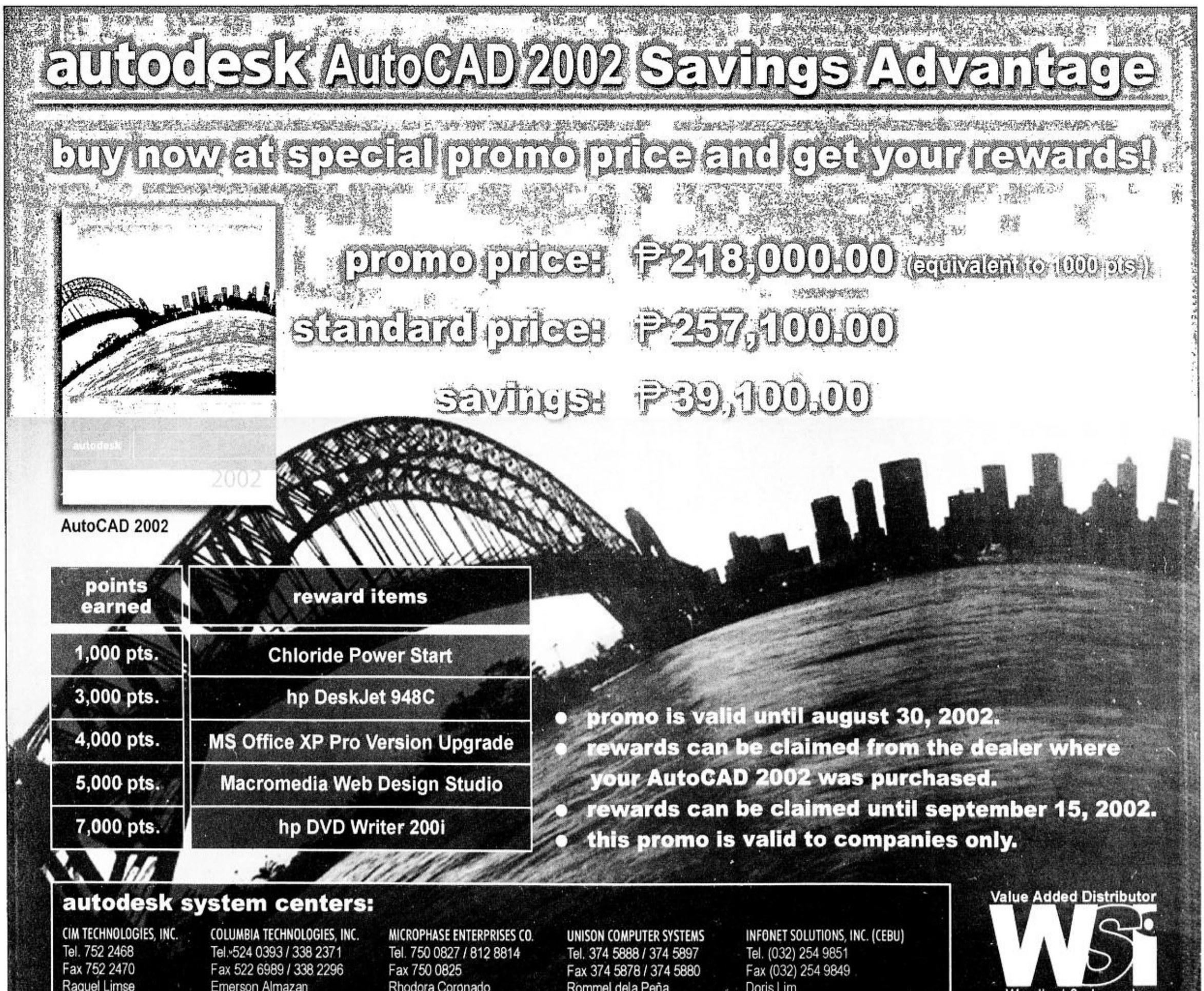
The technical working group of the Development Budget Coordinating Committee has estimated that the deficit this year may swell to as much as P163 billion based on estimates that the combined shortfall of the BIR and BOC would reach P31 billion to P54 billion.

Last week, Camacho said the government might have room to allow a higher-than-projected budgetary shortfall next year given benign inflation and low interest rates.

Camacho, speaking on local television, said markets were being overly "fixated" on the deficit and that the fiscal gap had not put any undue pressure on domestic interest rates or consumer prices.

The government has set a deficit ceiling of P138 billion for 2003, up from a projected shortfall of P130 billion this year.





Pre-need: The root cause

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

A PRE-NEED plan is the best investment you can make. There is no other valid financial contract you can buy that comes near the pre-need plan in terms of return on investment. This is why pre-need plans, for over 30 years, continue to sell like hotcakes.

But, the high return on investment promised under a pre-need plan is precisely the root cause of the current problems of the pre-need industry.

In my column of Nov. 26, 1993, I discussed a pre-need educational plan of Loyola Plans where the buyer paid P270 a month for five years, or a total of P16,200. At the end of the 10th year, the maturity value was P30,000, which could be paid out over a four-year college course.

My favorite actuary computed that for the P270 paid monthly over five years to build up to P30,000 by the end of the 10th year, the pre-need company had to invest the money at 22.45-percent interest a year compounded monthly. This was at zero expense. If you plugged in an overhead expense of only 20 percent, the pre-need company had to earn 28 percent a year compounded monthly. Even in the best of times, these earnings were simply not attainable.

For the planholder, it was a killing. For the pre-need company, it was slow death.

The so-called traditional educational plan, which pays whatever the tuition is at maturity, is even much more profitable to the planholder. Take the case of my grandson Cayo. Over five semesters in Management Engineering in Ateneo, College Assurance Plan has paid out a total of P148,984. By the time he graduates after three more semesters, I estimate CAP shall have paid about P250,000 in all. The plan cost only P243 per month over five years, or a total of P14,850, which was fully paid in July 12, 1988. It was, by far, the best investment my son Jimmy has ever made. By the way, this plan is no longer available.

So, now the question that comes to mind is: how can the pre-need company afford such generosity?

If a planholder misses a payment, his plan lapses. He has two years to reinstate it. If he does not, the company confiscates all payments. A friend of mine who used to be a director of a pre-need company said that as much as 60 percent of the plans lapse and were never reinstated. He said that the confiscated funds were the pre-need company's biggest source of income.

As a result, pre-need companies prefer that a plan will lapse. Then, the company does nothing to persuade the planholder to reinstate it within two years so that the payments can be confiscated. This is in stark contrast with a life insurance company, which does everything to persuade the policyholder to reinstate a lapsed policy. This is because a lapsed life insurance policy that is not reinstated is a loss to the company.

The funds confiscated by the pre-need company on lapsed contracts are used to plug the inevitable shortfall in investment income. But are the funds enough? Apparently not, otherwise there will be no trust fund deficiencies.

Weak economic conditions, poor investment decisions, even possible overspending certainly contribute to the present ordeal of the pre-need companies. But the root cause of it all is in the plans themselves. The plans carry the seeds of the pre-need company's own inevitable destruction. Now, it seems the seeds have germinated and will soon be in full bloom.

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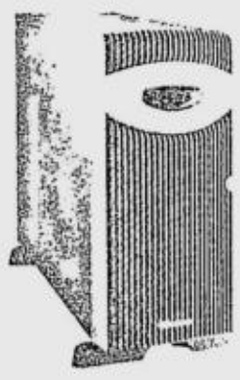

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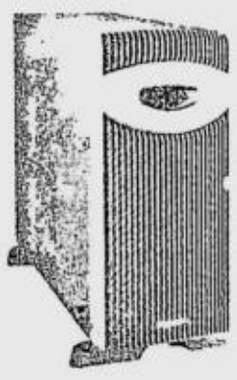

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GMA 7 earnings up 37% to P991M

GMA Network Inc. registered gross revenues of P991 million in the second quarter, P268 million or 37 percent more than the first quarter performance of P722 million.

For the month of June, gross revenues were at P367 million, 7 percent lower than last year's performance of P394 million but was 12 percent better than the previous month's sales. This was so far the highest monthly revenue level attained for the year, according to Felipe L. Gozon, GMA's chair/president and CEO.

On a year-to-date basis, the company's gross revenues stood at P1.713 billion, 2 percent behind last year's performance that included political ads of about P90 million.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) in the second quarter stood at P349 million, 65 percent more than the Ebitda in the first quarter. The company recovered from a loss of P942,000 in the first quarter by posting a net income of P103 million in the second quarter.

UBP posts 68% increase in profit

UNION Bank of the Philippines (UBP) reported a net income of P852 million for the first half of 2002. This represented an increase of 68.27 percent from the results in the same period last year of P506 million. Earnings per share likewise increased by 68 percent from P1.84 in January-June last year to P3.09 in the same period this year.

The improvement in performance was driven mainly by the 35.96-percent increase in revenues (net interest income and other income) from P1.59 billion in January-June 2001 to P2.17 billion in January-June 2002.

The net income of P852 million for the first half of 2002 included additional provision for losses in risk assets of P162.5 million. As of June 30, 2002, UnionBank's non-performing loans or cover for loan losses was 62.7 percent against the industry average of 44.5 percent as of March this year.

UBP achieved a return on equity ratio of 12.38 percent in the first six months of the year versus the industry average of 3.5 percent in January-March 2002. UnionBank's return on assets ratio stood at 2.92 percent for the six-month period. The revenue-to-expense ratio during the period was 1.84x versus industry average of 1.42x for January-March 2002.

Total resources grew by P9.4 billion or 18.01 percent to P61.8 billion as of June this year from P52.3 billion as of the same month last year.

Making money in a bear market

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

YOU probably watched the meeting between Colin Powell and our President, but you did not hear what was said: "Madame, I am giving you $55 million for defense. I hope you will use it and not just sit on defense." In an attempt to lighten the mood, they agreed to play a game, naming their favorite TV shows. Powell opted for "The Agency" and smiled. Gloria chose "Name That Tuna," and Powell's smile vanished.

I must confess that the President of the USA looks blushed, so he is taking a month's vacation. He is leaving a decision as to whether to attack Iraq to his next Cheney of command, the Vice President. Unfortunately, his heart is not in it. It's a Saddam shame. He has absolutely no support and will probably have to borrow Dolly Parton's bra.

Disney announced that attendance was down and that they would miss their target for the third quarter. Their shares are way down from dizzying heights in 2000, and Snow White had to lay off three of her seven dwarfs. Even those original characters, Mickey and Minnie, have been affected. They had to have mouse-to-mouse resuscitation.

Business in the stock market is so bad that Makati and Manila are going to transfer to Loyola and just keep a skeleton staff and a ghostwriter. The elevators in Tektite only go down, so if you live in the Penthouse, you get plenty of stares. Don't worry about the market. By 2019, the Earth will be destroyed by a giant hemorrhoid or asteroid, and the bottom will fall out the market.

The central bank has just been given permission to borrow yet another $1.2 billion, just like Brazil and Argentina. As they say in the "X Files," we are not a loan.

I have not had much feedback on my limericks, but here are two more:

A bakla who lived in Khartoum
Took a lesbian up to his room.
And they argued a lot
About who would do what
And how and with which and to whom.

* * *

If intercourse gives you thrombosis,
And abstinence causes neurosis,
I prefer to expire
Fulfilling desire
Than to live in a state of psychosis.

Alan Greenspan is to be knighted by the Queen the next time he visits London. He thoroughly deserves this award, which is rarely bestowed on non-Britons. He took over as Fed chair in 1987 and the United States enjoyed 12 years of unprecedented prosperity. I think he is the most intelligent man on the planet, and I always listen to all his speeches to the Senate or Congress and report to you in detail. I was offered a knighthood last year, but in this country, it is too hot to wear it. In any event, I did not want to be called Sir Cumference or Sir Loin of Beef.

I am feeling really pleased with myself. Since I restarted my subscriber service in February, the Phisix has fallen 230 points (20 percent) and there have been a number of SELLS—TEL, GLOBE, FLI, BPI, to name a few. But to send out a BUY in the middle of a bear market takes courage. However, I was so convinced by the fundamentals, as well as the chart that I told my faithful flock to buy it about four times and even sent out a most convincing point and figure chart.

How can a stock with no discernible debt, an "A" rating on its commercial paper and a bright future sell on a price/earnings ratio of 2? It was totally absurd and I said so in no uncertain manner. Despite heavy foreign selling and a drop of 30 points in the index in one day, the stock has risen 14 percent. One subscriber, who bought 100,000 shares and is now setting on a profit of P140,000, suggested I should double the suspicion rate. He has a point, and once the market turns, I might do just that. I do not want a large number of subscribers, as I like to keep it personal and talk to most of them, regardless of where they trade. I much prefer a small number of believers, who will preserve their capital when the market is falling and make lots of money when it is rising. So at some state, I will probably close the list.

Results announced this week were not inspiring except for TEL, but if you look closely, you will find that 90 percent of the profits came from GLOBE, whose profits rose 21 percent to over P3 billion. One person in six now has a cell phone, and the market is nearing saturation point. That is why GLOBE has fallen from P680 to P480 in a few months.

BPI was very disappointing, with profits down 24 percent. There was inspired foreign selling at P51, ahead of the results, and the stocks has dropped 20 percent.

Even ALI, whose profits were expected to be flat, showed a decline of 5 percent and stated that they were now selling lower priced houses on which margins were obviously smaller. ALI adapts well to changing conditions, and with its attention focused on reducing operating costs, it has no financial constraints.

AC reported a 4-percent net increase in profits. Their subsidiaries—BPI and ALI—produced lower profits but GLO made up for the deficit. Over the past eight months, foreign brokers have been selling AC and buying ALI. Whether they will continue to do so depends on their perceived future prospects of BPI and GLO.

SMC announced half-yearly profits down from P3.8 billion to P3.2 billion, which was in line with analysts' expectations. The B shares rose P2.50 from their low on relief that the figures were not too bad and that, ultimately, the acquisitions will pay off.

Hey, I am not supposed to be watching fundamentals, I am a technical analyst. You can always contact me, mrbearbull@hotmail.com but don't ask me what the BUY is. It still has some way to go.

Hotel firm pins recovery hopes on conventions-hosting business

WATERFRONT Philippines Inc. is banking on its business of hosting conventions to shore up its revenues and muddle through a sluggish tourism market.

Waterfront executive vice president for operations Rexlon Gatchalian reported that despite a difficult environment, Waterfront's hotel division has chalked up a 23-percent growth in revenues to P361.87 million so far this year, with its conventions business accounting for nearly 30 percent of the total.

"Due to the continued weakness in the inbound foreign tourist market, we continue to focus on our conventions business to propel our revenues," Gatchalian said.

He said Waterfront spent a third of its P150-million renovation fund to refurbish the convention center of its flagship Waterfront Cebu City Hotel.

Waterfront group director for sales and marketing Shella Laxa said in line with its strategy to focus on the conventions market, Waterfront would continue to upgrade its meeting facilities and acquire the latest audio-visual equipment.

In the case of the newly refurbished Cebu International Convention Center, for instance, the 3,063-square-meter Atlantic Hall could now be further subdivided into multiple function rooms that could accommodate a thousand persons.

"In line with our government's thrusts to make our country a tourist haven, Waterfront is working hard to become a major convention player in Southeast Asia, so the public can expect more innovations coming from our side within the coming months," Laxa said.

Doris C. Dumlao

Stocks . . .

From page B1

Del Castillo said investors were still jittery over the ballooning budget deficit, which was likewise affecting confidence in the local currency.

"The peso-dollar exchange rate is also something to look out for," he said.

Asiasec Equities Inc. research head Oliver Plana said, "Much of the trading activity this week will be dictated by the US markets, given the possibility that there will be a cut by the US Fed in key interest rates."

Plana said the local stock market tended to ignore corporate results for the second quarter because of volatility in US markets.

"It seems that no one wants to take a strong position in equities under this environment," he said.

Plana said the market's next support was at 1,080 but would likely move only within a band of 20 to 30 points per trading day.

BPI Securities Corp. said the recovery of US markets in the last few trading sessions had eased investor concerns, encouraging some bargain-hunting.

"The market's slow rally has seen the index inching past the 1,100 psychological resistance. However, the thin volumes particularly on turnover accompanying market uptick and the lack of broad-based buying suggest continued consolidation rather than a sustainable rally," it said.

On a technical basis, however, BPI Securities said there might be some opportunity for a technical rebound.

Philstocks.net agreed that the market was unlikely to move until the US Federal Reserve's announcement of its decision on interest rates.

"The event can potentially be the catalyst that can mark the beginning of a significant turnaround. There is a need to boost demand in the global economy as fundamentals have not turned for the better as hoped for," it said.

"If the Fed opts to maintain a status quo, we may continue to see light volume with minimal price activity to prevail. The market is going to have to hold up for some time before we're going to have more bargain hunters," it said. ***Doris C. Dumlao***

BSP sets probe . . .

From page B1

gate trust fund of P33 billion, of which 30.9 percent was used to buy government securities. Twenty-four percent financed new business ventures and expansion, while 20.3 percent was placed in property development.

Releasing his own report to the House subcommittee on securities and capital markets, Philippine Federation of Pre-need Companies president Juan Miguel Madrigal Vazquez said out of 45 pre-need companies, 23 now had a capitalization of at least P100 million. The rest either had P75 million or P50 million.

"The industry has trust funds of almost P37 billion, with a liquid portion of at least P4 billion that, in itself, is sufficient to cover maturing plans for the next three years without having to convert the other assets of the industry," Vazquez said.

Only two of the 45 companies have yet to wipe out their trust fund deficiencies, but this problem will be solved shortly again with SEC strictly enforcing the rules, he said.

He disclosed that an American-Singaporean company would soon invest in Asian Diamond Plans and fill its deficiency.

The foreign firm—the sixth multinational company to be involved in the local pre-need industry—will also raise Asian Diamond's capital to P100 million, making it the 24th with such funding, he said.

In the case of CAP, Vasquez said the company has committed to deal with its trust fund deficiency in the next 60 days.

Vazquez stressed that over two years of "fierce," "unforgiving" and, at times, "painful" regulation by the SEC had made the pre-need industry financially stable.

Vasquez said because of the passage of the Securities Regulation Code, the SEC obtained more funding and resources and consequently was able to create the non-traditional instruments and securities department to monitor and regulate pre-need companies full-time. ***Clarissa S. Batino***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, August 9, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	6,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15.5	16	15.5	16	58,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43.5	43	43	209,300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29.5	29	29	77,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	120,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35.5	35.5	35	35.5	316,600
Philippine National Bank	30	31	30	31	4,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1245	1255	1240	1255	1,610
Sun Life Financial Serv.	915	920	915	920	4,310
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.53	5,720,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	485	485	480	480	13,140
Ipeople Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	60,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.03	0.032	9,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	600,000
Piltel	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	2,240,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	280	285	280	285	139,890
Ivantage Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	200,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	1,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	19.5	18.75	19.5	9,600
Manila Electric Co. B	27	28	27	28	574,000
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.68	1.64	1.68	548,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	25,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	47,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	539,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	198,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	50,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.5	260,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	500
RFM Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.8	0.8	240,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	49	48	49	1,057,100
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	53.5	52.5	53.5	137,200
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	567,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	3,224,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	500,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	420,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.065	0.075	0.065	0.075	700,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12	12.5	11.75	12	1,991,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.0825	0.08	0.08	1,800,000
Ionics Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	32,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.61	5,600,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	600,000
Music Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	300,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	1,160,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	5,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	22	22	22	22	263,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series A	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series H	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10	10	3,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5	5	5	5	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.5	9,696,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	70,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,340,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,170,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.76	1.78	1.74	1.78	2,684,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	4,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.16	0.16	480,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	787,000
MINING					
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	300,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0026	0.0028	12,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.18	0.15	0.18	120,000

CURRENCIES

Aug. 9, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.034019	1.000000	51.6630
Japan	Yen	0.008552	0.008271	0.4273
United Kingdom	Pound	1.583704	1.531600	79.1271
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.132569	0.128207	6.6236
Switzerland	Franc	0.683695	0.661201	34.1596
Canada	Dollar	0.654567	0.633032	32.7043
Singapore	Dollar	0.584192	0.564972	29.1881
Australia	Dollar	0.551477	0.533333	27.5536
Bahrain	Dinar	2.742902	2.652661	137.0444
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.275739	0.266667	13.7768
Brunei	Dollar	0.585018	0.565771	29.2294
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000111	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.024376	0.023574	1.2179
UAE	Dirham	0.281550	0.272287	14.0672
Korea	Won	0.000864	0.000836	0.0432
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.967100	49.9633
Argentina	Real	0.284854	0.275482	14.2322
Brazil	Real	0.355945	0.344234	17.7842
Denmark	Kroner	0.134602	0.130174	6.7252
India	Rupee	0.021285	0.020585	1.0635
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.272147	0.263193	13.5973
Mexico	New Peso	0.106140	0.102648	5.3031
New Zealand	Dollar	0.469645	0.454194	23.4650
Norway	Kroner	0.133630	0.129234	6.6766
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017408	0.016835	0.8697
South Africa	Rand	0.099454	0.096182	4.9691
Sweden	Kroner	0.107761	0.104216	5.3841
Syria	Pound	0.020117	0.019455	1.0051
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030638	0.029630	1.5308
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000763	0.000738	0.0381

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	SELLING AT	BUYING AT	Last Date of Same Asked Price
1. ALABANG "A"	1,600,000	CALL NOW	Jan 95
2. ALABANG "B"	CALL NOW	——	——
3. BAGUIO CC	760,000	CALL NOW	July 95
4. CALATAGAN GC "A"	90,000	------	May 93
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	250,000	——
6. CANLUBANG GC	570,000	------	Dec 90
7. CANYÓN WOODS	200,000	------	——
8. CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	100,000	July 91
9. CC AT TAGAYTAY	420,000	CALL NOW	<Pre-sell
10. CELEBRITY CLUB	------	170,000	——
11. FONTANA "C"	------	CALL NOW	——
12. FOREST HILLS "B"	300,000	------	July 00
13. MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	------	11,000,000	——
14. MANILA POLO CLUB	CALL NOW	2,700,000	March 95
15. MLA SOUTHWOODS "A"	670,000	------	<Pre-sell
16. MLA SOUTHWOODS "B"	------	CALL NOW	——
17. ORCHARD GCC "A"	CALL NOW	——	<Pre-sell
18. PUNTA FUEGO	CALL NOW	------	——
19. RIVIERA GCC "A"	CALL NOW	------	<Pre-sell
20. STA. ELENA "A"	1,650,000	——	——
21. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	------	800,000	——
22. TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	CALL NOW	------	——
23. THE COUNTRY CLUB	CALL NOW	------	——
24. VALLEY GOLF	------	250,000	——
25. WACK WACK GOLF	CALL NOW	6,700,000	Mar 98

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	RIVIERA CC "A"	15,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	10,000	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
EAGLERIDGE "A"	10,000	TAGAYTAY H'LANDS	35,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
MIMOSA (INDIV)	5,000	WACK WACK GOLF	90,000

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CAPITOL HILLS	FOREST HILLS "A"	ORCHARD "A"	STA ELENA "A"
CELEBRITY	BAGUIO CC	PUERTO AZUL	VALLE VERDE

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As of August 12, 2002

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A"	1,600,000	1,500,000
Baguio Country Club	-	680,000
Camp John Hay	290,000	250,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC A/B*	110,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	190,000	-
Canlubang Golf	550,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club	100,000	-
Celebrity Sports Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
City Sports Club	830,000	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	180,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"C"*	340,000/550,000*	-
Eastridge	170,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fairways & Blue Waters C1	600,000	-
Fontana D/C	70,000/140,000	90,000
Forest Hills "A"/C"	230,000	-
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	Pls. Call*	11,000,000
Manila Polo	-	-
Makati Sports Club A/B	Pls. Call	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	650,000/750,000*	700,000*
Metropolitan Club	100,000	-
Mimosa Golf Ind./C3*	140,000	265,000*
Mt. Malarayat	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Corp*	Pls. Call/Pls. Call*	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	65,000	-
Puerto Azul "A"/"B"	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	550,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	220,000	-
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	190,000/380,000*	320,000*
Riviera Golf "B"	250,000	-
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	90,000/Pls. Call*	-
Rockwell Club	380,000	-
Sherwoods "A"/"B"*/"C"*	105,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf "A"/B*	Pls. Call/Pls. Call*	Pls. Call
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	330,000	-
Subic Golf	180,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	-	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	900,000	810,000
Tagaytay Midlands	830,000	780,000
Valley Golf & CC	-	250,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	160,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	7,400,000	6,800,000

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66 & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of August 12, 2002

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,500,000	1,600,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	1,700,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	750,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	90,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	Please Call	260,000
Canlubang	-	600,000
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	115,000
Celebrity Sports Club	170,000	180,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	150,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	210,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	210,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	260,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,750,000	12,500,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	11,000,000	Please Call
Manila Polo	Please Call	2,800,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	600,000	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Please Call	750,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	180,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,600,000	1,750,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	2,100,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	430,000
Tagaytay Highlands	820,000	875,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	Please Call
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	145,000	-
Valley Golf	300,000	340,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	Please Call	7,300,000

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

For more information, please call:
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DUMPING CHARGES

DTI urged to tax sulfuric acid from Japan

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LMG Chemicals Corp. has asked the Department of Trade and Industry to slap anti-dumping duties on sulfuric acid imports from Japan.

LMG, an affiliate of the Chemphil group, claimed that acid imports from Japan were being "dumped literally" into the Philippines since they were by-products of smelting operations in Japan.

LMG claimed that Japan had been churning out "tons and tons of acid" that its safe disposal has become a major problem for the government. The sulfuric acid has been finding its way to the local domestic market where it was being sold at dumped price.

LMG said that the costs of shipping the sulfuric acid to the Philippines were also being subsidized to further lower the product's price.

Chemphil president Antonio M. Garcia said the dumping of sulfuric acid into the country was adversely affecting the operations and survival of the local sulfuric industry.

Sulfuric acid is a basic industrial chemical used in a number of downstream industries specifically as an oxidizing and dehydrating agent because it is a strong and cheap inorganic acid. Industries that use this chemical include fertilizer, food, steel, soap and detergents, water treatment and purification, sugar and steel.

LMG is one of the biggest producers of sulfuric acid in the country with a capacity of 90,000 metric tons per year.

The DTI has been getting an increasing number of petitions for anti-dumping duties against cheap imports as local manufacturers face increasing competition from abroad due to the country's low tariffs. Among the industries that have sought government protection from imports are cement, ceramic tiles, glass, steel and petrochemicals.

PSALM to tap other fund sources for WESM

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management said it was considering other means to fund the establishment of the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) apart from the $7-million (about P360 million) financing from the World Bank.

PSALM president Edgardo del Fonso said in an interview that the firm had been exploring many options and ways to avoid delays in putting up the WESM.

The government aims to put up the electricity bourse by end of the year to meet the conditions tied to the privatization of National Power Corp. and to push forward industry reforms.

Del Fonso said that following the World Bank's approach on the matter would take another six months as the lender wanted a new bidding for the WESM's interim market management system.

The management system is primarily a software platform that provides ways to operate the spot market.

The Department of Energy had announced that a system proposed by Alstom Philippines was chosen in an earlier bidding, but the World Bank has yet to give its go-ahead on the choice.

"We are now studying ways to enable National Transmission Corp. to tap funds for the project," Del Fonso said.

A Napocor official, meanwhile, said the advice from the National Economic and Development Authority would be sought regarding the issue.

The establishment of the WESM was tied to the release of the third and final of tranche of a $600-million program loan from the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

GOINGS-ON

Singapore service

CEBU Pacific Air (CEB) is scheduled to open its daily service between Manila and Singapore by Oct. 1, 2002.

Early bird flight 5J-803 will depart Manila for Singapore at 7:30 a.m. and flight 5J-804 will leave Singapore for Manila at 12:15 p.m. As in its other regional services, CEB will use a 179-seater Boeing 757 aircraft to ply this route.

Manolo San Juan, CEB VP for marketing, said this new service expanded further the airline's great value offer and distinct brand of warm and personalized service.

Seats for the Manila-Singapore service are already being sold by travel agents. San Juan said the airline was tapping the leisure market as well as overseas Filipino workers (OFW). According to statistics from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, 26,305 OFWs left the country for Singapore in 2001.

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TO meet the people's expanding demands for speedy access to information on the market, the Philippine Stock Exchange has come up with a new website that boasts of an enhanced look, easier navigation, improved features and faster site experience.

Launched on Aug. 8, the new site, www.pse.org.ph, contained all disclosures of listed companies, stock quotations, dividend declarations, trading activities and other corporate announcements.

The site is also a venue for the Online Daily Disclosures System which the PSE recently installed to allow trading participants and off-site investors to access company disclosures, announcements as well as the market's Daily Quotation Report.

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EVENT SCHEDULE
3Com Certified Solutions Associate Training: August 15-16
3Com Solutions Roadmap Seminar: August 16
(Seminar is from 9:00AM to 12:00PM)
3Com Solutions Exhibit: August 15-16 (9:00AM-5:00PM)

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Dealers to wage legal battle vs used auto imports

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE COUNTRY'S automotive dealers, sharing the sentiments of local vehicle assemblers, are keen on taking the legal route in stopping further importation of used right-hand drive (RHD) vehicles through the Subic Freeport after waiting in vain for a decisive action from the Department of Trade and Industry.

Truck Manufacturers Association chair Frank M. Nacua said the country's automotive dealers belonging to the Philippine Automotive Association were contemplating on filing an injunction on the importation of used RHD vehicles that have kept sales of new locally assembled vehicles from staging a recovery like the rest of Asean markets.

Nacua said the dealers have had enough waiting for the DTI to act on the used vehicle importation problem considering that it had notified the agency of the serious threat posed by this trade as early as November 2000.

In a presentation to TMA members Friday, Nacua said the law was clear on the restrictions on the importation and sale of second-hand RHD vehicles.

He said Memorandum Order No. 346 (which set the guidelines for the Motor Vehicle Development Program) allowed only the importation of brand-new completely built-up passenger cars, commercial vehicles and motorcycles while Republic Act. No. 8506 explicitly prohibited the import, sale and registration of RHD vehicles.

He said the influx of imported second-hand RHD vehicles had adversely affected the viability of 22 assemblers registered with the Board of Investments, 250 franchise and authorized vehicle dealers and 256 automotive parts makers. He claimed that the RHD vehicle imports also posed serious risks on the safety of the drivers and passengers because of questions on the quality of conversion and threatened the environment since most of the old engines do not comply with the Clean Air Act standards.

The trade, Nacua added, also eroded tax collections of the government because of potential losses in brand new vehicle sales, undervaluation of imports and non-payment of excise taxes.

He said the second-hand vehicles trade flourished over the last two years particularly for utility or light commercial vehicles. This observation was based on the discrepancy between vehicle sales and vehicle registrations at the Land Transportation Office.

The number of new utility vehicles sold in 2000 and 2001 accounted for only 41 percent and 39 percent, respectively, of the new registrations of this type of vehicles.

Nacua said stopping the used vehicle trade in the country should be the government's first step in instituting reforms in the industry. Nacua said the government would have a tough time getting support for its plan to raise taxes on the industry if used vehicle imports were allowed to filch the sales of brand-new vehicles.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. is also considering to engage Subic importers in a legal dogfight, specifically to stop the release of some 16,000 used units in Subic in an auction scheduled this week.

These vehicles have been gathering dust in Subic warehouses since the first quarter of this year after the Bureau of Customs tightened the entry of RHD and used vehicles through Subic while a congressional committee was investigating the issue. Although the Subic vehicle importers obtained a court injunction barring the BOC from enforcing its order, the DTI refused to give import permits, a policy which the agency enforced this year.

PLDT net to hit ₱4.2B, says ABN Amro

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. is expected to post nearly P4.2 billion in net income this year, 9 percent higher than an earlier P3.8-billion forecast, investment bank ABN Amro has forecast.

In a report dated Aug. 1, ABN Amro said PLDT exceeded market expectations with its P2.8-billion net profit in the first six months of the year on the back of the strong second-quarter showing of its cellular subsidiary, Smart Communications Inc.

"PLDT's second-quarter results produced some of the best quarterly numbers the company has seen in some time. While the market was looking for weaker results, the revenues delivered and the general maintenance of margins meant that expectations were exceeded across the board," it said in its report.

The bank noted that PLDT was able to post strong growth against the backdrop of slower subscriber growth in Smart, PLDT's key revenue driver.

Smart was able to acquire only 81,041 subscribers in the second quarter from 189,617 in the same period last year.

Despite the slowdown in subscriber growth, the company's revenues jumped 48 percent to more than P8.9 billion in the second quarter from last year's less than P6.1 billion.

"What is remarkable about the growth from Smart was that it was done against the backdrop of significantly slower subscriber additions. However, the gap was closed by expanding wireless data revenues, which increased by 16 percent," ABN Amro said.

Bulk of Smart's revenues came from text messaging traffic, although value-added services like ring tones and other downloads from Smart Zed and Smart Money continued to increase their contributions, it added.

Also, the recent launch of Smart's 64-kilobit SuperSIM (subscriber identification module) card could further expand its range of wireless services and boost wireless revenues.

PLDT's international and national long-distance revenues also showed an 8- and 13-percent quarter-on-quarter increase.

"Thus, rather than dragging down total sales, long distance actually provided some support," the investment bank said.

PLDT's strong cash generation in the second quarter further increased its ability to service its more than $1.3 billion in maturing obligations from this year to 2004.

"The strong cash flow achieved in the quarter was done against a substantial payable reduction of more than P4 billion, which will not be recurring going forward. As a result of the company's progress, net debt fell for the quarter by P5 billion or 3 percent from P172 billion to P167 billion. We believe the company will make continued progress in terms of cash generation, which will only increase the value of equity holder's share in the company," the report said.

SEC studying risk-based capital rule

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is looking to require stockbrokers who cannot meet its P100-million minimum paid-up capital requirement to maintain a risk-based capital adequacy level similar to the capital requirements imposed on banks.

"We would like brokers to be sufficiently funded to cover risks," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said.

Based on a study by the SEC's market regulation department, neighboring Asian countries have given up on the net capital-based approach or used this with a risk-based capital adequacy ratio.

"We have to be abreast with our neighbors," Bautista said.

The SEC study noted that for a capital market to operate successfully, participants should be confident that the market was secure and that everyone had adequate capital to cover risks and meet contractual obligations.

"A stockbroking company's access to sufficient capital enables it to protect its clients and counter parties from consequential losses. On this premise, the importance of capital adequacy standards and requirements has become paramount, providing an increasing level of protection to investor as players in the capital market take on greater risks," it said.

Risk-based capital adequacy models work on the premise that stockbrokerages that were exposed to greater risk needed more capital.

In Asia, at least two countries have adopted the risk-based capital adequacy models, namely Malaysia and Singapore.

The SEC has suspended temporarily its requirement that existing broker-dealers must maintain a minimum paid-up capital of P100 million.

DOTC readies policy to improve infrastructure

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications has mapped out policy and infrastructure improvement plans to make the country's civil aviation industry more globally competitive.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and the government's aviation experts came up with recommendations on how to improve the country's air transportation sector during a strategic planning conference in Tagaytay City.

In terms of policy, the air transportation cluster drafted measures on how to "provide economic and globally competitive air transportation in a liberalized and deregulated environment."

The thrust of these proposed reforms was to promote healthy competition among passenger and cargo airlines in the country as this would help drive down fares and cargo rates as well as improve the quality of service to passengers and cargo.

Also, proposals for tariff reforms and navigational charges and user fees would be drafted.

Mendoza said in a statement that the formation of a Civil Aviation Authority would be formally proposed to intensify the country's efforts in seeking to lift travel advisories that still cover the Philippines.

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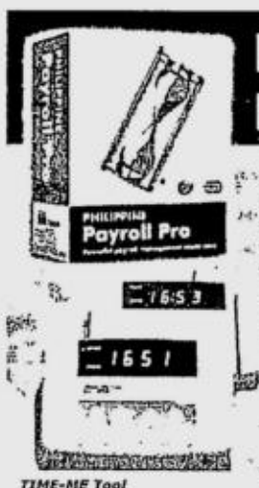

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Opening Ceremonies/Ribbon Cutting

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Gintong Aklat Awards"
Book Development Association of the Phils.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2002

12:00 NN - 5:00 P.M.
Function Rms. A & B
"A Few to Inspire The Many:
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Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Kiddie Camp! Sacred Heart School
workshops & activities for Children"

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Rm. A
"Launch of Readers' Club"
Filway Marketing, Inc.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2002

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Function Rm. A
Forum
"Current Trends in Medical
Informatics"
Medical & Health Librarians
Association of the Philippines
(MAHLAP)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Rm. B
Forum
"New Initiatives for the
Total Quality Librarians"
Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.
(PLAI)

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Nurturing Relationships:
All about dating, to planning your
wedding, to starting a Family"

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Rm. A
"Literature Circles for Early Childhood
Educators Seminar: A Seminar-
Workshop for Pre-School Teachers"
Seminar Fee: P700.00/participant
Speaker: Ms. Maricar Gustilo de
Ocampo, Educational Consultant

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"Values Integration in Classroom
Teaching Seminar"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"Pastor's Exclusive Launch"
OMF Literature, Inc.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2002

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Rm. A
Seminar
"Osborne Episode I: Surviving Virus
and Hack Attacks"
"Glencoe: Your Total Solution to
the New Curriculum"
McGraw-Hill Education

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"IT Power! Technology is key.
Featuring Goodwill Bookstore website
plus freebies galore!"

10:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
Function Rm. B
Forum
"Selection/Deselection: Building a
Total Quality Collection"
Philippine Association of Academic
and Research Libraries (PAARL)

2:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Function Rm. B
Open Forum
"The Future of Library and Information
Science Education: A Presentation
and Discussion"
Philippine Association of Teachers
of Library Science (PATLS)

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Function Rm. A
Publishing An Award Winning Book
Book Development Association
of the Philippines (BDAP)

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"National Book Awards"
Manila Critics Circle

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Rm. A
Forum
"Information Literacy Education"
UP Library Science Alumni
Association

10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"Wow! Bulagal Mga Kuwento Para sa
Pamilya by Armando Caniecon, Daily
Gospel Now New Edition by Robert
Sullivan,OMI, The Colorless Rainbow
by Heidi Emily Eusebio-Abad,
The Magnificent Pearl by Heidi Emily
Eusebio-Abad,
Si Lit, Ang Nawawalang Tupa
(Lit, The Lost Sheep)
by M. Timothy Magadia, PDDM
Illustrated by Raquel Ida-Jimenez"
Paulines Publishing

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"GBS Family Day:
Your family-friendly bookstore brings
you tips on
parenting and child-rearing"

1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Function Rms. A & B
"Pasiklaban sa Paaralan"
An Inter-School Competition
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Function Rm. A
"Member's Meeting"
Book Exporters Association of the
Phils. (BEAP)

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
St Pauls

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Rms. A & B
"Genyo Product Launch & Workshop"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Lifestyle Makeovers: New
Developments in Fitness, Health and
Well-being"

12:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"Genyo Product Launch &
Workshop"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Rm. A
"Christian Booksellers
Association - Workshop"
OMF Literature, Inc.

5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Function Rm. A
Book Launch
"Simplified Arrangements of Familiar
Tunes for the Classical Guitar
by Prof. Jose Valdez with
The Performance of Ars Nova"
Book Wagon

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
OMF Literature, Inc.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Rms. A & B
"Film Showing of Classic
Teacher-Oriented Movies"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Money Matters! Career, Business &
Money Management
tips for everyday use."

1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Seminar/Workshop for Preschoo
"Shared Reading: An Approach to
Literacy"
Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Function Rm. A
"Forum: Cycle Time Management"
Speaker: Mr. Dindo M. Salumba
Association of Special Libraries
of the Philippines (ASLP)

4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
Function Rm. B
Product Presentation
"Electronic Databases
and Resource Centers
for the Modern Library"
Thomson Learning

7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Function Rm. B
Philippine Bookfair Fellowship Night
(by invitation)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2002

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power! A Quiz Show"

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"The Magical Bridge to
Reading and Writing:
A Seminar-Workshop
on Primary Grade Teachers"
Seminar Fee: P700.00/participant
By Ms. Maricar Gustilo de Ocampo
Education Consultant

2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"Philippine Robotics
Society Induction of Officers"
Felta Multi-Media Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Function Rm. A
Book Launching
"Chess Simul with
Grand Master Eugene Torre"
Active Chess Center of Asia and
Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
UST Publishing House

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
Adarna House

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2002

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Kiddie Fun Day Sunday!
Featuring the Berenstein
Bears Meet and Greet
plus other mascots!"

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"Got 2 Believe (...In the Pinoy Writer)"
UP Press

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• Philippine Association of Academic & Research Libraries (PAARL)
• Philippine Association of Teachers of Library Science (PATLS)

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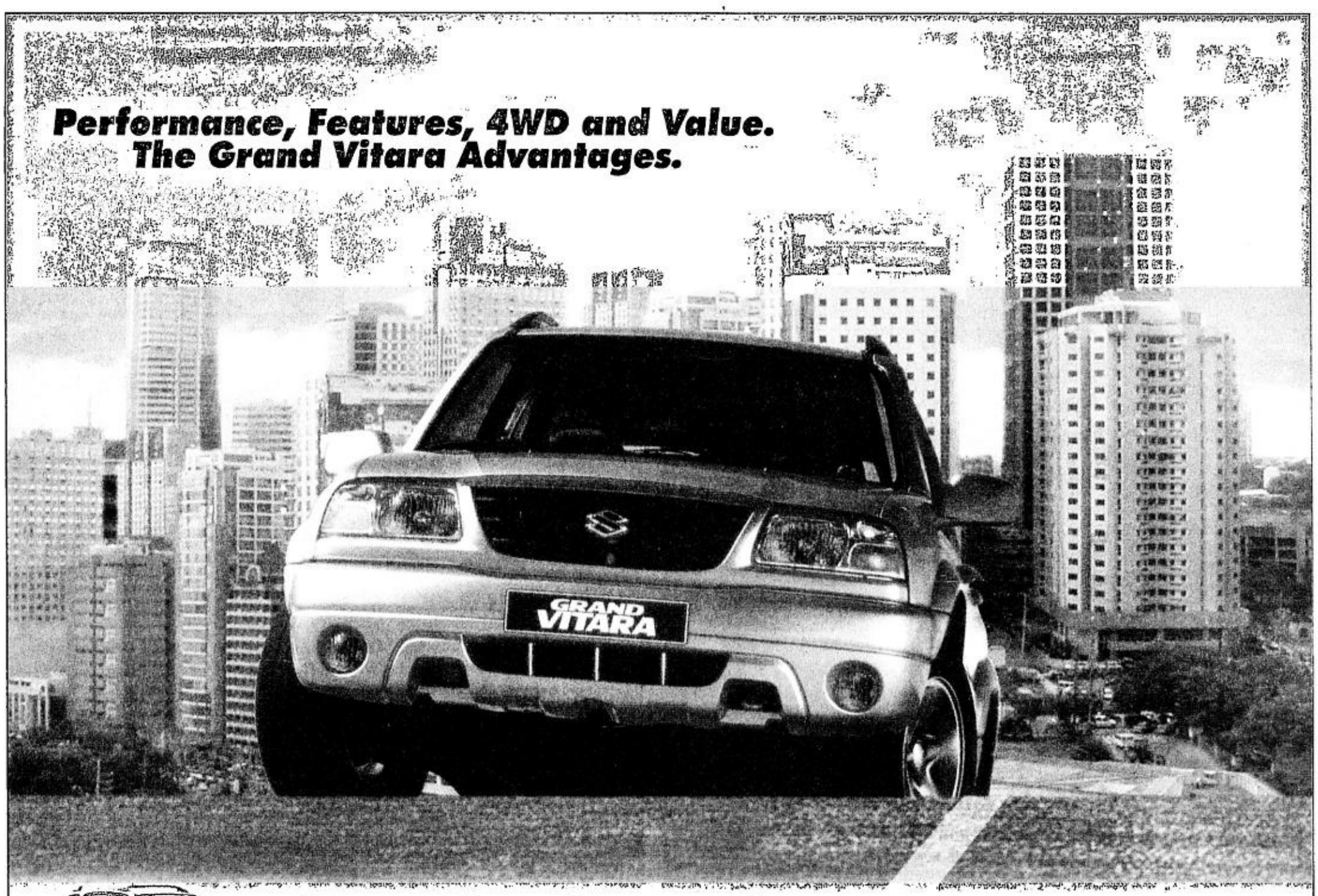

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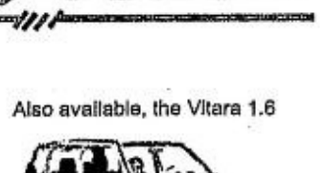

**Approved by DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1243 Series of 2002

NEW YORK—Investment bank Morgan Stanley changed its call on Friday to expect a hefty 50-basis-point cut in official interest rates by the Federal Reserve at Tuesday's policy meeting.

Morgan Stanley economists told clients the cut would be needed to prevent the US economy from falling back into recession, citing worries about weak consumer spending.

Previously, Morgan Stanley had expected the federal funds rate would be left unchanged at a four-decade low of 1.75 percent.

A small but growing number of investment banks expect the Federal Reserve to lower rates before the end of the year to shore up growth, but none of the other 21 primary dealers that trade directly with the Fed is predicting an easing on Tuesday.

Apart from Morgan Stanley, four primary dealers expect an easing before the end of the year to keep the slow recovery on track.

"Either evidence of a faltering economy or capital market dislocations that could jeopardize economic activity would be sufficient grounds for easing. Both have emerged as clear threats in recent weeks," Morgan Stanley chief economist Dick Berner said.

"Thus, we believe that officials want to ensure that economic hesitation does not turn into broader-based economic weakness."

Consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of economic activity, has slowed in recent months but spending on big-ticket items like autos and houses has held up, underpinned by low interest rates.

But businesses remain cautious about hiring and investment, which policymakers have said is needed to ensure a balanced recovery.

The majority of primary dealers do not see enough signs of weakness in the economy, despite the turmoil in the stock market, to justify another rate cut after a series of 11 aggressive cuts by the Fed last year.

The Morgan Stanley call came despite reports in the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post and Business Week dismissing speculation of an easing at next week's Fed meeting.

Commentary from senior Fed officials in the past week has also stressed that the recovery is not under serious threat, and the risks of falling back into recession are small.

"If we are wrong and the Fed does not change rates next Tuesday, we expect officials to ease by the Sept. 24 FOMC meeting," Berner said.

Futures markets have priced in the probability of one more 25-basis-point rate cut by the end of the year, but see only a small chance of an easing at the August Federal Open Market Committee meeting next Tuesday. ***Reuters***

Greenspan marks 15 years at the helm

WIDELY considered to be at least the second most powerful man in the United States, Alan Greenspan celebrates Sunday 15 years at the helm of the Federal Reserve.

At 76, Greenspan shows no signs of fatigue and his current term runs to 2004.

But rumors abound that may want to end his term early to avoid compounding the uncertainties of a presidential election that will be unfolding at the time.

Speculation over his future replacement is a favorite sport.

Greenspan would be leaving at the pinnacle of his career.

He is credited with saving the world economy by reacting swiftly to the 1987 stock market crash and to the financial crisis that shook the world in 1997 and 1998, not to mention an unprecedented series of interest rate cuts after the Sept. 11 attacks.

A few critics, however, accuse Greenspan of compounding the US economic woes before the attacks by refusing to drop interest rates more sharply.

Americans are not alone in showing their admiration.

Britain announced this week that Queen Elizabeth II will award him with an honorary knighthood for helping to steady the global economy.

Greenspan will not be able to call himself "Sir Alan" because he is an American, but he may place the letters KBE—for Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire—after his name.

"The award is in recognition of his outstanding contribution to global economic stability and the benefit that the UK has received from the wisdom and skill with which he has led the US Federal Reserve Board," the British Treasury said. ***AFP***

Bush hosts economic forum to boost investor confidence

CRAWFORD, Texas—Borrowing a page from his predecessor Bill Clinton's book, US President George W. Bush hosts an economic forum on Tuesday to stress his faith in the sputtering US economy and convince the electorate he is working to stimulate it.

With economic growth slowed to a crawl and a wave of accounting scandals that have eroded confidence in corporate America and dragged down the stock market, the meeting was not expected to produce new policy, at least in the short term.

Instead, it is designed to showcase the optimism of Bush and his aides about the economic outlook and try to persuade voters ahead of the Nov. 5 congressional elections that the president is focused on the economy, analysts said.

"This will help us talk to people about the fundamental strengths of the economy, exchange ideas, talk about the progress we made with the corporate responsibility legislation, talk about . . . how we go about restoring confidence with the public," said Karen Hughes, one of Bush's closest advisers.

The approach is similar to one Clinton used after he ousted Bush's father, former President George Bush, from the White House in 1992 by running under the unofficial campaign slogan "it's the economy, stupid!"

Before taking office, Clinton held an "economic summit" in Little Rock, Arkansas, in December 1992 to demonstrate his focus on the nation's economic problems and to build confidence that they would be addressed. The tradition dates at least to former President Gerald Ford, who convened a "Summit Conference on Inflation" in 1974 to show his engagement on the economy.

Bush appears to be doing much the same thing by hosting meetings with small business people, investors, economists and union members at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, about 25 miles (40 km) from his ranch in Crawford.

While the White House said Bush had invited a diverse group, many opponents of his policies were excluded, including the Democratic leaders of Congress. But the guest list did include major Republican party donors like venture capitalist Floyd Kvamme, brokerage executive Charles Schwab and Cisco Systems Inc. chief executive John Chambers. ***Reuters***

SEC concerned about Merrill's deals with Enron

NEW YORK—The US Securities and Exchange Commission has "expressed concerns" about Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc.'s dealings with bankrupt energy trader Enron Corp., Merrill said in a regulatory filing on Friday.

"We disagree with the views they have expressed to us and are in the process of responding to them on these matters," Merrill said in the filing.

The firm was told it is not a target of a US Justice Department investigation into the Enron matter, Merrill said.

Merrill made the statement in its regular quarterly filing. It did not provide details. A spokesman at Merrill was not immediately available to provide further comment.

On Thursday, The New York Times, citing unnamed former Enron executives, reported that Merrill helped Enron set up a fake oil and gas deal that let the energy trader record a $60-million profit in December 1999. In response to the story, Merrill issued a statement saying it never knowingly assisted Enron in misstating revenues and that it was deceived by the company.

Enron was not immediately available for comment.

Goldman Sachs may apply for bank license

NEW YORK—Wall Street firm Goldman Sachs Group Inc., following the lead of rivals Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. and Morgan Stanley, has indicated to Utah regulators it will apply for bank status, a state examiner said on Friday.

Goldman has indicated it will submit an application for a Utah industrial loan license, Michael Jones, chief examiner of Utah's financial institutions department told Reuters. If granted, Goldman could act as a state-regulated bank under the auspices of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Merrill and Morgan Stanley already have the licenses, which allow them to offer bank accounts and other services to wealthy clients. Morgan Stanley put $2 billion into its Utah banking unit a year ago, and Merrill has banking deposits of more than $70 billion at its Utah and New Jersey-chartered banks.

A Goldman spokesperson declined to comment on the matter, which was reported in Friday's Financial Times.

The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Reserve Bank do not oversee banks with the Utah license, allowing financial services firms to avoid the federal scrutiny that comes from the nation's biggest regulators.

The FDIC, which does have authority over the Utah banks, insures deposits in its member banks for up to $100,000.

Goldman is a longtime leader in trading stocks and bonds, advising on mergers and underwriting securities offerings. Its interest in banking is for its rich wealth-management clients, a company source said.

If its application is granted, Goldman would offer private clients bank accounts and other services, the source said.

Applications for a charter are considered for 90 days, after which time they are granted or denied, said Jones, the Utah examiner.

Bank status means securities firms can offer more services, but it can also make them more money. Firms including Merrill and Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. have reportedly started moving excess cash from brokerage accounts into deposit accounts, rather than money-market funds.

Money held in deposits yields lower payouts than money-market funds, allowing firms to scoop up excess capital.

In unrelated news, Moody's Investor Service on Friday said it raised Goldman's long-term credit ratings, citing the firm's strong market shares in investment banking. Upgrades often cut borrowing costs, and Moody's said Goldman still generates good profits despite Wall Street's cyclical downturn.

The upgrade spurred a rise in Goldman shares, which were up $1.20 at $75.50 after trading as low as $73.13 on the New York Stock Exchange. ***Reuters***

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Robinsons Mini Stop holds first Philippine trade meet

CONVENIENCE store franchisees and suppliers were recently introduced to a unique convenience store concept that has been sweeping the industry internationally during the first-ever Robinsons Mini Stop Trade Conference held at the Galleria Suites, Pasig City.

Robinsons Convenience Stores Inc. was established in 2000 as a joint venture between retail giant Robinsons Retail Group, technology, investment and trading titan Mitsubishi Corp. and Ministop Ltd., a subsidiary of the Aeon Group, one of the biggest retail groups in Southeast Asia.

Mini Stop is the only convenience store that thrives on a unique combo concept. It serves in-store prepared food products ensuring customers the convenience of shopping and savoring fresh food at the store's clean and comfortable dine-in corner.

Tomoyuki Nishida, vice president of Mini Stop, stressed that the trend of convenience store shopping was greatly improved by the combo concept. He expressed optimism in the Philippine market saying that the Filipino lifestyles have become so fast-paced these past years, thus providing abundant opportunities for Mini Stop's unique convenience store format.

Nishida also underscored the benefits of the state-of-the-art IT system developed together with Mini Stop Japan and Fujitsu that facilitates the exchange of data between stores, including the advanced point-of-sale (POS) systems installed in every Mini Stop.

Wilfredo A. Camarillo, general manager of Mini Stop, said that since the first shop opened in December 2000, there were now 35 Mini Stop convenience stores in the country, 23 in full operation and 12 under construction. He emphasizes that expansion will proceed at this rapid rate, especially during the next five years. According to Camarillo, "assortment, quality, price and service are the key success factors in achieving market leadership in the convenience store business." Mini Stop also provides the lucrative business opportunity to local entrepreneurs through the Mini Stop franchising package. The result is that this profitable business model becomes affordable and accessible to the Filipino entrepreneur.

Camarillo says that Mini Stop in the Philippines expects to break the 100-store mark by mid-2003 and is aiming for P1.9 billion in sales by the end of 2003.

He also stresses that the combo format of Mini Stop is ideal for buyers who maintain busy lifestyle and those who are always on the lookout for the best value for their hard-earned peso.

Paul Villanueva, RDCI logistics manager, also presented the highly efficient RDCI-Mini Stop distribution center that ensures on-time daily delivery of the freshest products. This distribution center makes possible various benefits for suppliers and franchisees such as warehousing facilities, manpower expense, savings on trucking costs, and minimal documentation.

The conference also opened the doors to franchising opportunities for local entrepreneurs. Filipino entrepreneurs will be able to take advantage of an established and lucrative business with relatively moderate capital. Transfer of technology is made possible because of the extended full support in terms of training, advanced systems, distribution center and store operation guidance. Apart from these, Mini Stop has also drawn up different types of franchise packages to fit various investment capacities.

YUPPIES MOUNT KANLAON CAMPAIGN

The Young Professionals' Network for Earth-Friendly Action (YPNet), a new group of young, techno-savvy environmentalists, recently launched its pilot advocacy campaign 'Kapote at Kamera Para sa Kanlaon' (KKK). The fund-raising and awareness-building project will support the logistical needs of a volunteer group in Mt. Kanlaon in Negros province. The public is enjoined to help save Mt. Kanlaon by donating heavy-duty raincoats (poncho type) and cameras, or their equivalent in cash. These shall, in turn, be handed over to the members of the Kanlaon Green Brigade during the formal launching ceremonies of YPNet this December. Shown are the officers of YPNet (from left) creative writer Job Pagsibigan, People's Journal reporter Badette Tamayo, ABS-CBN writer Josel Garlitos, DOH media officer Roy Santos, Neda monitoring officer Jing Ovilla, development specialist Mei Velas, PR man Edwin Galvez and engineer John Balicusto. For more information, call Mei Velas at 0917-8900042 or job pagsibigan at 0917-9336231.

BALENO CONTRACT SIGNING

Baleno Private Wear (underwear) formally tapped Christian Vazquez (center) as its talent with the signing of agreement at Cork & Liquor Restaurant at ABS-CBN in Quezon City. At the signing are Jeffrey See (right), Baleno president, and Genie Tan, co-owner. Baleno Private Wear for men is available at SM Department Stores nationwide.

Rotary Int'l World Peace scholarship program application deadline nears

ROTARY International has announced the availability of the Rotary World Peace Scholarship Program for Rotary year 2003-2005, according to a joint statement of IPP/Dr. Cecilia "Cecile" P. Reyes, a program committee chair, and former District 3810 governor Daniel "Danny" T. Yu, regional Rotary Foundation coordinator.

They said the program aims to advance research, teachings and knowledge on issues of peace, goodwill, causes of conflict and world understanding. This scholarship will cover transportation, tuition, room and board and other specified expenses for the two-year program leading to a master's degree related to peace and conflict resolution.

Rotary World Peace Scholarship is intended for individuals who have chosen a career in international relations, peace and conflict resolution and who already have experience in these areas. Those who are active in journalism, mediation work, military, public health, law, psychology, criminology, economics, sociology, literature, anthropology, agriculture and education may make strong candidates.

An applicant must be qualified for admission to full-time graduate study at any of the following seven Rotary centers in eight universities: International Christian University in Mitaka, Tokyo, Japan; University of Queensland in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia; University of Bradford in West Yorkshire, England; Sciences Po in Paris, France; Duke University and University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, North Carolina; University of California-Berkeley in California, and Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Each of these Rotary centers has a unique curriculum focusing on various aspects of international studies related to peace and conflict resolution such as international law, public health, natural resources and environment, education and literacy. Admission requirements vary from center to center. For instance, applicants intending to study in US universities should have taken the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Candidates proficient in more than one language, have leadership skills and have demonstrated commitment to peace and international understanding through personal and community service activities and/or academic and professional achievement are preferred.

Additional information and application forms may be downloaded from RI website at www.rotary.org/foundation/education/amb_scho/centers/index.html. Deadline for submission of application to the district is on Aug. 15.

Those interested may call the local Rotary clubs within the area of residence or get in touch with IPP/Dr. Cecile P. Reyes at the10th floor of Emilio Aguinaldo College, 1113 San Marcelino Street, Ermita, Manila, with telephone numbers 521-2710 locals 5309 and 5402, fax 523-3117, e-mail cecilereyes@hotmail.com. You can also call PDG Danny T. Yu at Copacabana Apartment Hotel, 264 Edsa Extension, Pasay City, at 831-8711, or fax 831-4344. E-mail copadty@pacific.net.ph.

FUSE-TAN YAN KEE PARTNERSHIP

The Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE) and the Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc. sign a memorandum of understanding for the implementation of key educational programs. Under the MOU, the Tan Yan Kee Foundation shall donate P8 million to help FUSE defray the costs of such projects like nationwide training workshops for math, science, and English teachers, production of made-for-TV courses called Constel, school-on-air radio programs for teachers, and other publications. Signing the MOU are Tan Yan Kee chair and president Dr. Lucio C. Tan (seated, left), while FUSE was represented by its president Dr. Salvador H. Escudero III. Witnessing the signing are officers of FUSE and the Tan Yan Kee Foundation.

IMG'S NEW OFFICE

International Marketing Group (IMG) recently opened its Metro Manila office at the 3rd floor of King's Court I Building, 2129 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. Xuan Nguyen (second from right), senior field vice chair, cuts the ceremonial ribbon. Also shown are (from left) Cathy Borja and Vangee Villanueva, directors, Sheila Roxas, Chito Roxas, field vice chair, Joen de las Penas and Jill de las Penas, directors. IMG is a financial broker company.

FIRST AID COMPETITION

The Philippine National Red Cross was crowned champion in the 1st Red Cross/Red Crescent Regional First Aid Competition-Southeast and East Asia held recently at the MML Development Center (MMLDC) in Antipolo City. MMLDC is a corporate training facility established initially for the development of Meralco's workforce, but is now also used by other companies. The competition was co-sponsored by Meralco, in line with its own safety awareness programs. In the weeklong event, the Philippine Red Cross team pitted their skills against counterparts in Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and other countries in the region in simulated exercises that included indoor accidents, sports accidents, road accidents and primary health care. The winning team is shown before the start of the event.

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US workers' productivity growth slows down in Q2

WASHINGTON—Growth in the productivity of US workers slipped sharply in the second quarter, the government reported on Friday, but managed to maintain positive momentum in the face of a sluggish economic recovery.

The Labor Department said worker output per hour in non-farm businesses advanced at a 1.1-percent annual rate in the second quarter, down from the upwardly revised 8.6-percent pace in the previous quarter and the weakest showing since the second quarter of 2001.

The fall in productivity reflected a much slower pace of economic output, as the amount of worker hours fell for a fifth straight quarter. Output rose at a 0.5-percent clip in the quarter, down from a 6.2-percent increase in the first quarter, while hours worked fell at a 0.7-percent rate.

Still, economists hailed the continued growth in productivity as a good sign for the economy. Analysts polled by Reuters had expected productivity to post a smaller gain of 0.8 percent.

"What it looks like is you see a decline in the growth of output in the second quarter, but businesses reduced employee hours to compensate," said Patrick Fearon, economist at A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc. in St. Louis.

"This reflects the fact that corporate management is focusing very intently on managing costs and doing a good job of it."

"This slowdown, while disappointing, is not entirely surprising. Productivity often moves erratically from quarter to quarter," said Mike Moran, chief economist with Daiwa Securities America in New York.

Productivity gains are key for keeping inflation low. That, combined with growing doubts about possible future short-term rate cuts by the Federal Reserve, boosted demand for long-term Treasury securities, pushing bond yields to nine-month lows.

Stocks were narrowly mixed by the end of trading day, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average up by 33 points while the Nasdaq composite was off by 10 points.

Unit labor costs, a closely watched gauge of wage pressures, rose at a 2.4-percent rate, the first increase since the second quarter of 2001. But compared with year-ago levels, unit labor costs were still down 2.2 percent, Labor said.

The rise in unit labor costs may increase pressure on firms' bottom lines. When companies are unable to pass along price increases to customers, as many now say is the case, squeezing more output from their workers and equipment becomes more important to maintaining profitability.

With inflation low and worries the US economy, which eked out only a 1.1-percent growth rate in the second quarter, could slip back into recession, economists said it was too early to worry that the end of falling labor costs could end up as higher prices.

"The good side of the data is that it tends to prop up consumption. On the downside, it undermines corporate profits," said Alan Ruskin, research director with 4Cast Ltd. in New York.

The numbers are expected to have little impact on Federal Reserve policymakers, who are to meet Tuesday to mull interest rates. The central bank is widely expected to leave rates untouched as it waits for the economic situation to become clearer.

Friday's report reflected recently released revisions to estimates of economic growth as well as employment and hours data. Those revisions provided some insight into one of the lingering questions from the recession that began in 2001. ***Reuters***

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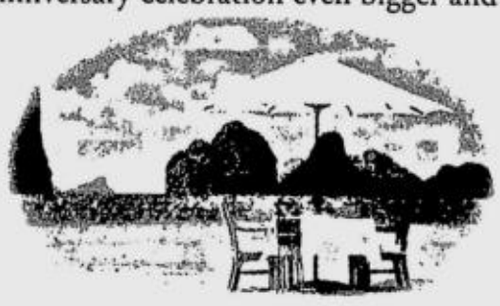

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China's industrial production posts 12.8% growth

BEIJING—Spurred by increasing export demand, China's industrial production continued to grow at a rapid pace in July, rising by 12.8 percent compared with the same period last year, state media said Saturday.

Industrial production in July was worth 256.8 billion yuan ($31 billion), the China Daily said, citing statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics.

The growth rate was slightly higher than June's 12.4 percent despite searing heat and deadly floods that hit some areas of the country that month, the bureau said.

For the first seven months of this year, industrial output reached 1,702.8 billion yuan ($205.2 billion), a year-on-year increase of 11.8 percent, according to the report.

Production of electronics, telecommunications equipment and automobiles were the major forces behind the strong growth, bureau officials said.

Optical-communication equipment, telephones and fax machines increased 76.7 percent in July. Color TV production grew 70.3 percent and automobile production rose by 46.4 percent to 247,000 cars in July.

Niu Li, a senior economist with the State Information Center, said the recovery in the world economy contributed to the growth in industrial output, as did the government's efforts to stimulate investment and domestic consumption.

Industrial exports increased rapidly in July, with exports of electronic and communication products rising by 45.3 percent.

China's industrial sector contributes 60 percent to its gross domestic product (GDP), Niu said. ***AFP***

WB, IADB pledge extra $3B to Brazil

BRASILIA, Brazil—The World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank pledged an extra $3 billion in loans to Brazil on Friday, swelling the foreign aid available to the troubled country, as it battles to contain a pre-election crisis in investor confidence.

The new loans form part of a mammoth bailout for Latin America's largest economy that began with a record $30-billion loan from the International Monetary Fund.

The World Bank said in a statement it would recommend to its executive board that it give $2 billion in additional loans to Brazil. That would bring the total made available by the bank to $4.5 billion through 2003, the first year of Brazil's new government after elections in October.

The IADB will make an additional $1 billion in funds available over the next 18 months, bringing total IADB cash at Brazil's disposal to $2.5 billion, Brazil's Finance Ministry said.

Brazil sought foreign aid after the country's financial markets were pummeled by investors nervous about the election. Investors fear the left-leaning candidates leading in polls could upset macroeconomic stability and even provoke a default on $250 billion in public debt if elected.

"The support of the international community is important to reestablish the confidence of financial markets and to help Brazil to continue to make social and economic progress," Vinod Thomas, World Bank director for Brazil, said in a statement.

Despite the huge cash lifeline from multilateral lenders, however, Brazil's stocks, bonds and its beleaguered currency, the real, slumped in early afternoon trading.

The World Bank hailed the "structural and social reforms" implemented by the two-term centrist government of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso. It said the release of the additional funds would depend on a new government's commitment to maintaining reforms that bring stability and growth. ***Reuters***

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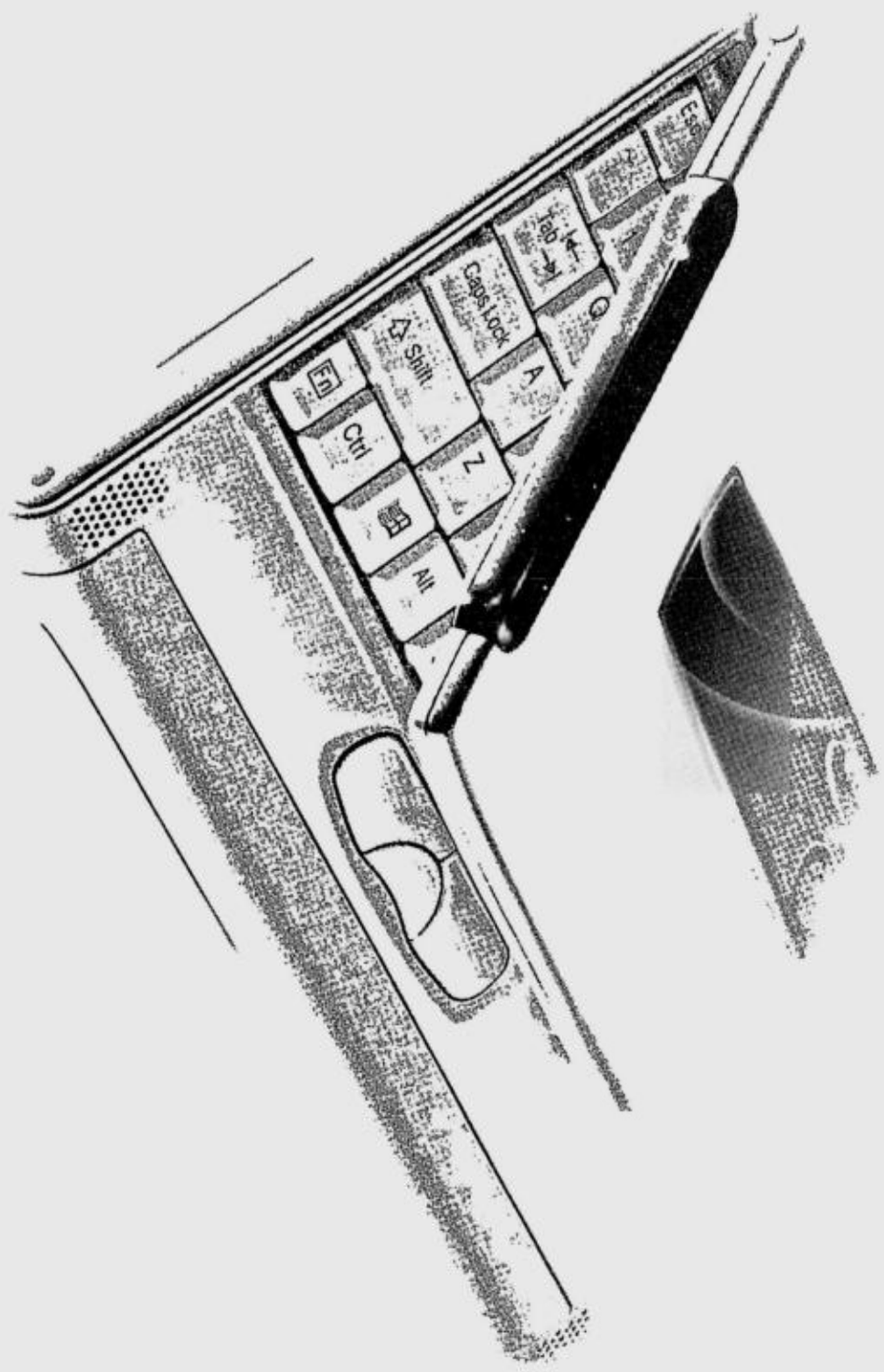

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533-5327 Joe / Rissa Monday - Friday

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NATION PAWNSHOP, INC.,
Poblacion, Meyc. Bulacan will
sell all unredeemed pledges of
Feb. 2002 on Aug. 21, 2002
10am. Lanuza & Sons-
Auctioneer

YUPANGCO PAWNSHOP, INC.
Pledges as of Jan-Feb. '02 will
be auctioned at the fl. offices:
Blk. 2-K 2nd Flr. Galleria
Bacaran Taft Ave PC-Aug. 20
'02-8,30AM: 200 Zapote Ba-
coor Cavite-Aug 20 '02-
2:00PM; Apt. 5 South Super-
highway Alabang Munt-Aug
27 '02-8:30 AM
J. Flor-Auctioneer

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Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Metro Manila

INVITATION FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) invites eligible Filipino consulting firms duly registered with the Department of Trade and Industry or the Securities and Exchange Commission for the purpose of drawing a long list from which a selection shall be made for the provision of consulting services for the NAIA Master Development Plan.

The selected Consultant who shall be screened and evaluated by the MIAA Prequalification, Evaluation and Award Committee (MIAA-PEAC) in accordance with procedures of the NEDA Guidelines on the Procurement of Consulting Services for Government Projects (Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 164), shall be responsible in the preparation of a comprehensive development plan for whole NAIA estate, including the airports' future operational requirements and covering three (3) areas of concern, i.e., airport macro economic study and facilities, NAIA estate development study and organizational development. It is a must that the Consultant has extensive experience in airport planning and macro economic study, land use development planning, transport system planning and engineering, business development and public administration/management that can be verified.

Consultants who wish to offer their services are requested to submit an official transmittal letter/statement together with their duly accomplished and notarized prequalification statements, as provided under Appendix A of the NEDA Guidelines, not later than **August 16, 2002** at the Pavements and Grounds Division, MIAA Engineering Building, MIA Road, Pasay City during official business hours only. Consultant's Prequalification Forms may also be secured from the Pavements and Grounds Division Office from **August 5-14, 2002** upon presentation of this advertisement and official letter of intent. Interested foreign consultants with extensive experience in the type of service and duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission may associate themselves with legitimate Filipino Consultants and must have proper authorization to practice their profession locally with appropriate Philippine professional regulatory agencies.

(Sgd.) ELPIDIO L. MENDOZA
Chairman
MIAA-PEAC

(PDI – Aug. 5 & 12, 2002)

HEADQUARTERS
PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY
Fort del Pilar, Baguio City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Philippine Military Academy is inviting interested manufacturers/ suppliers to pre-qualify and bid for the procurement of the Initial Clothing Allowance (ICA) and Combat Clothing and Individual Equipment (CCIE) of PMA Class 2007.

Initial requirements for the pre-qualification can be secured from the Academy Procurement Office, Gen. Lim Hall Building, Fort del Pilar, Baguio City and PMA Liaison Office, Camp. Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City during office hours.

A pre-bidding conference is scheduled on **August 16, 2002** at (9:30 A.M. at the Longayban Hall, Fort del Pilar, Baguio City. ICA and CCIE samples/specifications and bid documents as well as instructions to bidders will be presented during this conference.

Manufacturers/suppliers who fail to attend a pre-bidding conference shall be disqualified from participating in the actual bidding.

For particulars, please contact the Secretariat, PBAC at: PMA Procurement Office, Fort del Pilar, Baguio City (447-36-85) PILTEL.

(Sgd.) ARSENIO R. ARUGAY
COLONEL (GSC) PA
Chairman (PBAC)

(PDI--Aug. 9 & 12, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippine • Telephone 925-24-01

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids, re: supply of labor, tools and materials for the INSTALLATION OF FIRE ALARM SYSTEM AND SMOKE/HEAT DETECTOR.

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

List of requirements to be submitted:
1. Letter of intent /co. profile
2. SEC registration
3. Business License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before August 26, 2002 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI-- Aug. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 & 19, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province Misamis Oriental
Municipality ALUBIJID

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048 a notice is hereby served to the public that ERNESTO BRIGOLI LACIDA has filed with this Office a petition for Change of First Name from "ERLITO" to "ERNESTO" in the birth certificate of ERNESTO BRIGOLI LACIDA who was born on 07 October 1942 at Jimenez, Misamis Occidental and whose parents are Antonio C. Lacida and Petra R. Brigoli

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than 20 August 2002

(Sgd.) EVELYN P. NERI
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI - Aug. 12, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE: Loss S2 ID#1933159 under the name of Dr. Ramonito D. Vilran *(PDI-Aug. 12, 19, '02)*

PERSONAL

Olea see ASAP Blanca

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

AD NO. PD2002-20

Opening Date : August 26, 2002 - 9:00 a.m.
E-Bidding Date :

2002-20-01 **CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND HARDWARE** (Fascia Board, Lumber, Stainless Steel Sheet, Paint, Tinting Color, Sealant, Door-Knob, Gate Valve, Faucet, Tank Fitting Set, Bulb, Flourescent Fixtures, etc.)

2002-20-02 **POWER QUALITY ANALYZER**, 8 differential input channel (4-voltage and 4-current)

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **August 9, 2002** upon payment of P50.00 per schedule which is non refundable and presentation of **TIN/supplier's number (DCE)**.

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents **mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.** For inquiries please call No. 921-2574. Last day of issuance of bidding documents **August 21, 2002**.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - Aug. 10 & 12. 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Science Education Institute

Shaping the Future Now

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Science Education Institute (SEI) is inviting interested local licensed electrical contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid and to participate in the public bidding for the project:

Upgrading of the Electrical System of the Third and Fourth (Deck) Floor of the PTRI Building Occupied by the Science Education Institute (Included Labor and Materials)

Bid documents can be obtained from the General Services Unit (GSU), Finance and Administrative Division (FAD), Room 318, Science Education Institute, 3rd Floor PTRI Building, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM starting **16 August 2002**. Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements on sealed envelopes with bidder's signature across the envelope cover is not later than **23 August 2002** from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A pre-bid conference shall be conducted on **29 August 2002**, 10:00 AM, at the SEI Conference Room, 3rd Floor PTRI Building, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Sealed bid proposals shall be received by the SEI-BAC on **06 September 2002** until 10:00 AM at the SEI Conference Room after which the bid proposals shall be publicly opened in the presence of the attending bidders.

The SEI reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or part thereof, to waive any defect contained therein and to accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ESTER B. OGENA**
Director

(PDI--Aug. 10, 11 & 12. 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN
Tuguegarao City

ADVERTISEMENT

The Provincial Government of Cagayan with office address at Capitol, Almannao Hills, Tuguegarao City, is interested in purchasing, through public bidding, the following Engineering Equipment:

1) 25 units reconditioned Dump Truck (Isuzu), with double differential, floating cab, from 295-330 HP and 2,800 RPM
2) 01 unit reconditioned Prime Mover/Tractor Head (Isuzu), with double differential floating cab, from 380-390 HP and 2,500 RPM
3) 01 unit reconditioned Truck Mounted Crane with 2 engines
   a. Truck Side-Japan engine, (Hino, Fuso, Nissan) double differential, floating cab, 295-330 HP and 2800 RPM
   b. Crane Side-Japan engine, mechanical lattice boom, 120-130 HP, 80 ft. 35 tons
4) 01 unit reconditioned Low Bed, front loading, 35-40 tons
5) 01 unit reconditioned Diesel Pile Hammer, Delmag D25-32, 2,500 kgs., 78,970-39,975 Newton Meter
6) 02 units reconditioned generator set
   a. 30 KVA, diesel-fed, with 1 set panel board and complete with operational gauges, 3 phase, 60 cycle, 220/110 output and skid mounted
   b. 50 KVA, diesel-fed, with 1 set panel board and complete with complete operational gauges, 3 phase, 60 cycle, 220/110 output and skid mounted.
7) 02 units reconditioned dump truck - 10 wheeler ISUZU 10 PCI with double differential, floating 295-330 hp, 2,800 rpm
8) 01 unit reconditioned dump truck 6 wheeler, power steering FUSO, 6d15, 200 HP, 2800 RPM

For more information, interested parties may contact Engr. Gaspar Taquiqui at Provincial Equipment Pool Office, Capitol, Tuguegarao City or call Telephone No. **(078) 844-1266.**

Interested bidders must be pre-qualified. Deadline for pre-qualification is **August 18, 2002.**

Specifications and bid forms may be secured from the General Services Office, Capitol Hills, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, from **August 19-23, 2002**, upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of seven thousand pesos (P7,000.00).

Pre-bid conference will be held on **August 27, 2002**. Sealed bid proposals must be submitted to the Provincial Bids and Awards Committee not later than 9:30 a.m. on **September 03, 2002.**

The Provincial Government reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, waive any defects or formalities therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Provincial Government.

(Sgd.) **EDGAR RAMONES LARA**
Governor
Chairman, Provincial Committee on Bids & Awards

(PDI - Aug. 11, 12 & 13. 2002)

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
AFP HOUSING BOARD
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Housing Board invites all legitimate property developers duly registered with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) to participate in a joint venture arrangement for the development of a 20-hectare property at Camp Riego De Dios Tanza, Cavite.

Pertinent documents and information are available at the Housing Development Division, Office of the Special Service, AFP, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Deadline for the submission of Letter of Intent is **September 6, 2002.**

The AFP Housing Board reserves the right to reject any or all offers without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the proponent for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of the proposals, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ROLANDO N FLORIA**
Major General AFP
Chairman, PEAC
AFP Housing Board

(PDI - Aug. 3, 6 & 12. 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

O.R. No. 6920501 to 6920550

Issued by Legazpi Treasurer Office to Maybelle R. Banania, Brgy. Treasurer, Bigaa, Legazpi City.

Any information to the above, contact Julian P. Arienda Sr., Brgy. Bigaa, Legazpi City. Tel. No. (052) 820-8293

(PDI - Aug. 12, 2002)

SPORTSHOUSE INTERNATIONAL LEISURE INC.

IMMEDIATE HIRING!!

IT HEAD

- Male/Female, Must be a computer course graduate
- With background in programming
- With knowledge in Hardware and P.C. Troubleshooting
- Familiar with Point Of Sale System
- Effective in personnel management

IT STAFF

- Female, Must be a computer course graduate
- With background in Relational Database Management System (RDBMS)
- With knowledge in P.C. troubleshooting

You may send your resumé at:

19 PECTON BUILDING GILMORE AVENUE
NEW MANILA, QUEZON CITY
TEL. NOS. 721-2480/721-5553, FAX NO. 722-2869
E-MAIL: sports@sportshouse.com.ph

WANTED

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

MARKETING EXECUTIVES

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Candidates must be college graduate, male or female, experience preferred but not required.

Apply in person from 10 A.M.-5 P.M. at
488 Boni Ave. cor San Joaquin St., Mandaluyong City
Tel : 531-6350/531-6374

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Loyola
LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED INC

Notice is hereby given to the public that, with the consolidation of Loyola Plans, Inc. (LPI) and Loyola Education System, Inc. (LESI) into **LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC.**, effective September 1, 2002. LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC. will not honor as genuine, valid, or binding all receipts, application forms, and all other accountable forms of LPI and LESI that do not bear the seal and/or logo of LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC.

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People, Events & Products

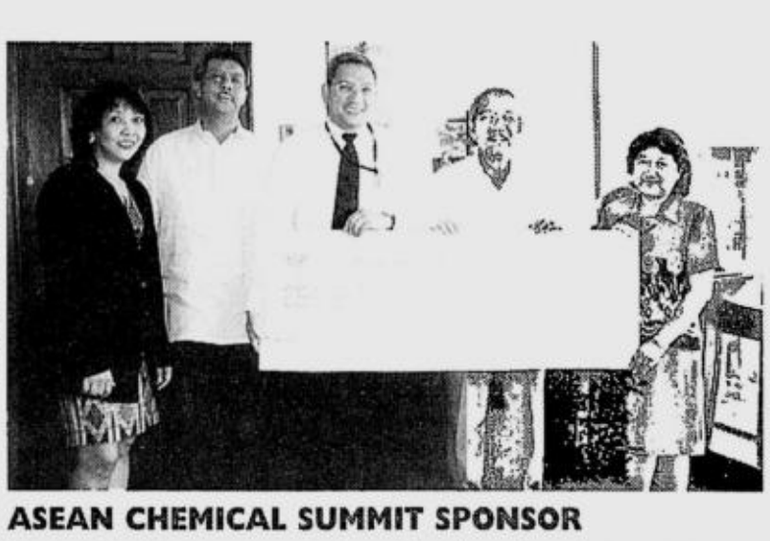
New LSPPI chair elected

LAWYER Victorino delos Angeles was elected chair and chief executive officer of Legacy Scholarship Pension Plans Inc. (LSPPI) during a stockholders' meeting held recently in Quezon City.

The stockholders also elected Prime Bishop Ignacio Soliba, Lacson, Carol Hinola, Norman Tiongson, Pastor Saycon and Celso del Angeles as members of the board of directors.

LSPPI has an authorized capital of P200 million and has no trust fund deficiency based on the latest certification issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The pre-need firm recently took over management control and forged an agreement to acquire controlling interest of All Asia Plans Corp., another pre-need firm.



ASEAN CHEMICAL SUMMIT SPONSOR

Du Pont Far East Inc. formalized its partnership with Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) as platinum sponsor of the forthcoming Asean Chemical Industry Club board of directors meeting and conference slated on Oct. 15 to 17 at the Edsa Shangrila Hotel. Celebrating its 200 years of manufacturing excellence, Du Pont takes an aggressive role in the conference and the responsible care program to share the company's safety culture to the chemical industry. That beyond product excellence, a safer environment should be given the thrust of the Philippines and the Asean chemical industry. Shown at the turnover ceremony are (from left) Tes L. Hernandez, president, event manager Expotrade, Edwin Umali, over-all conference chair; Ramon Abadilla, Du Pont Far East managing director for the Philippines and CPP sourcing manager for Asia Pacific, Jacinto Mantaring Jr., president, SPIK and Elenita Calar, vice president, SPIK.

BSP governor LPCCI guest

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura will be the guest of honor and keynote speaker on the 8th general membership meeting of the Las Pinas Chamber of Commerce and Industry to be held at noon of Aug. 27 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City. The meeting will be attended by officials of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and of the other chapters, notably the Metro Manila Chamber and the Paranaque and Muntinlupa Chambers. LPCCI president Jesus V. Tibayan said the theme of the meeting would center on "Bankers as Chambers Business Partners". The meeting will be preceded by a presentation on Matching, Opportunities, Ventures and Exchanges by Edwin A Moran of the PPCO membership committee. PCCI president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. will deliver a speech.

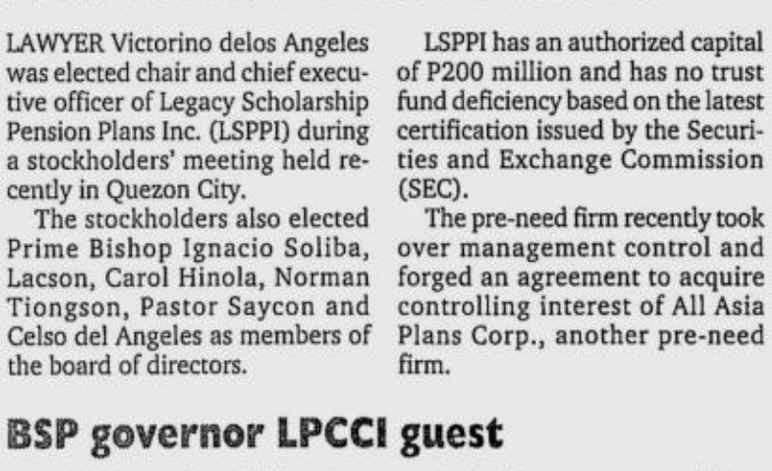
FRC MALL GRAND OPENING

April Boy Regino warmed up an otherwise stormy night during the grand opening of FRC Mall July 4. 'Sayawan, Kantahan at Tugtugan' marked the launching of the newest landmark to rise in booming Bacoor, Cavite. Cuevasville Realty and Development Corp. and Living Rock headed by Lizza Villanueva -- in cooperation with Smart – staged the mini-concert which featured Angelika de la Cruz, the V7 Band, Andrew Chin Chin and 17 BoyZ Dancers.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT SIGNING

LEISURE FARMS MOA SIGNING

Opta has agreed to set up an Organic Integrated Model farm this month. It will have a complete organic teahouse with meditation garden, a fishpond, and a vegetable garden, something farm visitors and residents will definitely enjoy. It will also put up an Opta dairy farm to demonstrate organic livestock, with Jacqui's Rizal Dairy Farm, the first organic dairy farm in the country. Leisure Farms is a 116-hectare residential farming community with healthy, porous, abundant soil on the breezy, rolling terrain in Metro Tagaytay, divided into 1000-1500-sqm farm lots. Farmers enjoy a spectacular view of Mt. Batulao and Balayan Bay. This is another project of LandCo Pacific Corp. Shown, from left, are Alby Xerez-Burgos, Leisure Farms project director, Jacqui Alleje, vice president of Opta, and Francis Ceballos, COO of LandCo Pacific Corp.



SUN, SMART IN JOINT MOBILE COMMERCE PROMO

Sun Microsystems Phils. Inc. (SunPhil) and Smart Money Holdings Corp. recently inked a general alliance agreement to jointly and globally promote Smart's unique mobile commerce platform and wireless solutions which run on the Sun platform. Shown during the signing agreement are (from left) Rosan H. Sison, SunPhil vice president and sales director; Cynthia R. Mamon, SunPhil president and managing director; Ian C. Wilson, chief executive officer, Smart Money Holdings Corp., and Alex D. Ibasco, head, Smart Mobile. Commerce Group.

CM STAR AWARDS

CM Star direct sales recently held its sales rally and awards ceremony at the ballroom of Manila Hotel. The company carries a wide line of products which cater to the needs of consumers ranging from fashion, beauty to health and the home. Offering business opportunities through direct selling on a part-time or full-time basis, CM Star seeks to improve people's lives by offering business and income generating activities. Personal discounts of CM Star products for network member's home consumption are a big benefit and savings in itself. CM Star consumable products range from Star Lumina Home Care Cleaners, Nutri-Blend Health drinks and food supplements, Water Purifiers, Westwood Apparell and Aromatherapy Soaps and Colognes, Derm Secret Skin Care Sets and Specialty Soaps and Laurentti 24 karat Gold and Silver Klad Jewelry. Interested distributors can call 913-9066 or 912-5667 for inquiries, or visit 86 Ninth Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City. Shown are the first trimester awardees (from left) Mary Massab-Carandang, treasurer, Carlos Teano, top SM in sales; Mr and Mrs Fetalvero, top SCO in sales, Lani Paderogao, top depot in sales and escort, and Nelson R. Carandang, president.

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OBITUARIES

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As a deer longs for a stream of refreshing water, so I lay for you, O God.

Ps. 42

ANTONIO LLAMAS CERVANTES, SR.

(January 17, 1917 - August 9, 2002)

Papal Awardee, Knight of St. Sylvester
President, Cervantes Press & Store, Inc.
Founder & President, Rural Bank of Sta. Rosa de Lima, Paniqui, Tarlac
Member, Alagad ng Panginoon Community

Died in the Peace of our Lord on August 9, 2002 at the age of 85.

His bereaved wife **Susing**; children **Ding** and **Tess**, **Grace** and **Ricky**, **Bebette** and **Alex**, **Tony Boy** and **Cynthia**, **Michael** and **Ruby**, **Baby**, **Joji** and **Marites**, **Maricar** and **Tonton**, **Agnes** and **Sam**; grandchildren and relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Enriquez Funeral Parlor, Tarlac City. Interment will take place at the Garden of the Ascension, Tarlac City, on Tuesday, August 13, 2002, after the 8:00 am Mass at the San Sebastian Parish Cathedral.

The Officers and Staff of

STA. ROSA DE LIMA RURAL BANK, INC.

Paniqui, Tarlac

extend their deepest condolences to the family of its Founder, Chairman and President,

ANTONIO LLAMAS CERVANTES, SR.

who died in the peace of our Lord on August 9, 2002 at the age of 85.

His body lies in state at the Enriquez Funeral Parlor, Tarlac City. Interment will take place at the Garden of the Ascension, Tarlac City, on Tuesday, August 13, 2002, after the 8:00 am Mass at the San Sebastian Parish Cathedral.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

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In Loving Memory
on the 25th Death Anniversary of

JUAN P. GARCIA

October 26, 1909 - August 12, 1977

Most Holy Redeemer Church ..... Brixton Hill Extension, Quezon City	6:00 AM 6:30 PM
Sta. Rosa de Lima Church ..... Brgy Ugong, Pasig City	6:00 AM
St. Joseph the Worker ..... Balintawak, Quezon City	6:00 AM
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament ..... Valle Verde 5, Pasig City	6:30 AM
Sto. Domingo Church ..... Quezon City	8:00 AM
Our Lady Queen of Peace ..... Edsa	12:15 NN 7:00 PM
Our Lady of Mount Carmel ..... Quezon City	6:00 PM

Our Dearly Beloved Papa

Silverio "Veriong" A. Mariano, Sr.

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 10, 2002 at the age of 93.

His late wife **Leonides Gundaya Mariano** (†); loving children and childrens-in-law **Ciriaco & Nellie**, **Elpidio & Alma**, **Jovita & Roberto**, **Lenie & Roy**, **Manuel & Leah**, **Romeo & Rachel**, **Rodolfo & Annie**, **Rey & Ellen**, **Silverio Jr. & Elvie**, **Jesus & Joya**; grandchildren and grandchildrens-in-law **Elpidio (Jr.)**, **Emily**, **Eco**, **Maristel**, **Marvin**, **Albert**, **Roderick**, **Louie**, **Liezel**, **Roderick**, **Grace**, **Jalen**, **Joanabel**, **Kevin**, **Katrina**, **Michael**, and **MaeMae**; great grandchildren **Joshua & Giana Louise**; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Inc. at 296 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila.

Funeral Mass shall be on August 14, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. at The St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Inc. (2nd Floor).

Interment at Himlayan Pilipino Memorial Park, Inc. at 2:00 p.m.

VALENTINA SILVA CAMACHO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 8, 2002 at the age of 75, in Orange County, California, USA

Her bereaved husband **FELIX**; children **Ellen** and **Mindo**, **Dan** and **Pat**, **Art** and **Juliet**, **Evelyn**, **Willy** and **Beng**, **Vangie** and **Jimmy**, **Yoly** and **Dan**, **Hector** and **Emy**, **Bobby** and **Lee**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Monday, August 12, 2002 at the Forrest Lawn Memorial Park, Cerritos, California, USA.

HON. ALBERTO UY ENAGE, JR.

Former Mayor, Municipality of Biliran
Board Member, Province of Biliran

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 6, 2002 at the age of 67.

His loving wife **FELIPA** (†); children **GINA**, **STEVEN** and **MILDRED**, **LINA** and **EDUARDO NARAVAL**, **CHERRY** and **DEXTER CORPIN**, **LEANDRO** and **GENEVIEVE**; grandchildren **ANICA**, **BERNIE**, **JEE**, **LEIGH**, **PAULO**, **KOKOY**, **PIA** and **GELO**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, Biliran, Biliran Province.

Interment will be announced later.

In Loving Memory
On the
First Death Anniversary
of

AMPARO S. MENDOZA-CASTRO

Who died in the Grace of our Lord on August 12, 2001.

The family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember **AMPARING** in their prayers.

MASSES OFFERED:

Sanctuario De San Antonio *Forbes Park, Makati City*	August 12, 2002 7:30 AM
St. James Parish *Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City*	August 12, 2002 6:20 AM
Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish *Merville, Parañaque City*	August 12, 2002 6:00 AM
Parish of the Hearts of Jesus & Mary *West Triangle, Quezon City*	August 12, 2002 6:30 AM
Parish of St. Lawrence *Balagtas, Bulacan*	August 12, 2002 6:00 AM

Our Dearly Beloved

Antonio G. Peñafuerte

President & Owner, Funeraria Filipinas, Inc.
Las Piñas and Makati Branch

Peacefully joined his Creator on Sunday, August 11, 2002 at the age of 79.

His bereaved wife **LIGAYA**; children **EDDIE**, **LINDA**, **TESSIE**, **BECKY**, **IRMA**, **BELEN** & **BOY**; son and daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Funeraria Filipinas Chapel, Las Piñas City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 17, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. at Golden Haven Memorial Park.

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INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

Anti-hacking law hanging in Congress

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

A "REMEDIAL LEGISLATION" that is supposed to give more teeth to an existing Philippine law penalizing activities such as computer intrusion has been left hanging in Congress, documents obtained by INQ7.net showed.

Congress has yet to act on House Bill 1908, also known as the Computer Abuse Act of 2000, introduced to the 12th Congress by House Rep. Ma. Victoria Locsin early this year.

The bill is patterned after the United States Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, as amended in 1994 and 1996, and the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes (Crimes Code), the bill's explanatory note indicated.

US laws outlaw illegal access to computers, networks, servers and databases; obtaining information on financial records of a customer of a financial institution without the proper authorization; obtaining, publishing and giving out the password to another person's account; and unleashing computer viruses.

Currently, hacking is punishable under Section 48 of the E-commerce Act of 2000 with a minimum of P100,000 in fine and a maximum commensurate to the damage incurred by the target of an attack, plus a mandatory imprisonment of six months up to three years.

The Computer Abuse Act, on the other hand, has been broken down to various fines and other penalties according to the weight of the crime. A minimum fine of P25,000 up to a maximum one P1 million is also being proposed.

When passed, the bill would also ban any person found guilty of computer intrusion from working in any computer-related profession, company, industry or concern including a government agency.

The Department of Justice, National Computer Center (NCC), and the National Bureau of Investigation will be directed to come up with the implementing rules and regulations of the law 60 days after the bill is signed into law.

Trial gets delayed after change of judge in 1st RP hacking case

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

THE HACKING case allegedly involving a former employee of an international business school faced another setback when the judge handling the case announced that she would no longer handle the litigation following her promotion to a Philippine regional trial court, a prosecution lawyer told INQ7.net.

Leilani Garcia, a 26-year-old former systems supervisor of the Thames International Business School, stands accused of violating the E-commerce Act of 2000, particularly provisions penalizing activities such as hacking.

Hacking refers to any activity involving unauthorized access to a computer system to corrupt, alter, steal, or destroy electronic data.

According to the E-Commerce Law (Republic Act 8792), hacking carries a minimum penalty of P100,000 up to the amount commensurate to the damage incurred by the victim, plus imprisonment of six months up to three years.

During a hearing on the Garcia case on June 19, Judge Ma. Cristina Cornejo of Branch 69 of the Pasig Metropolitan Trial Court said that she has been appointed to the Makati Regional Trial Court, according to prosecution lawyer Charlton Jules Romero.

Earlier, the court had to reset a hearing after one of the main witnesses of the prosecution failed to show up.

"It is a setback on our part. There were other cases she was handling that she allowed to be deferred. We were hoping that she would voluntarily defer the (hacking) case so that a new judge could hear our evidences from the very start," Romero said.

Later in the interview, he clarified that the recent development is not exactly a setback but a judicial process that is "normal" especially for criminal cases where due process is exercised.

Romero noted that Garcia's case is very technical, and involves a lot of explanation of terms and concepts surrounding the evidences that they will be presenting later as the trial progresses.

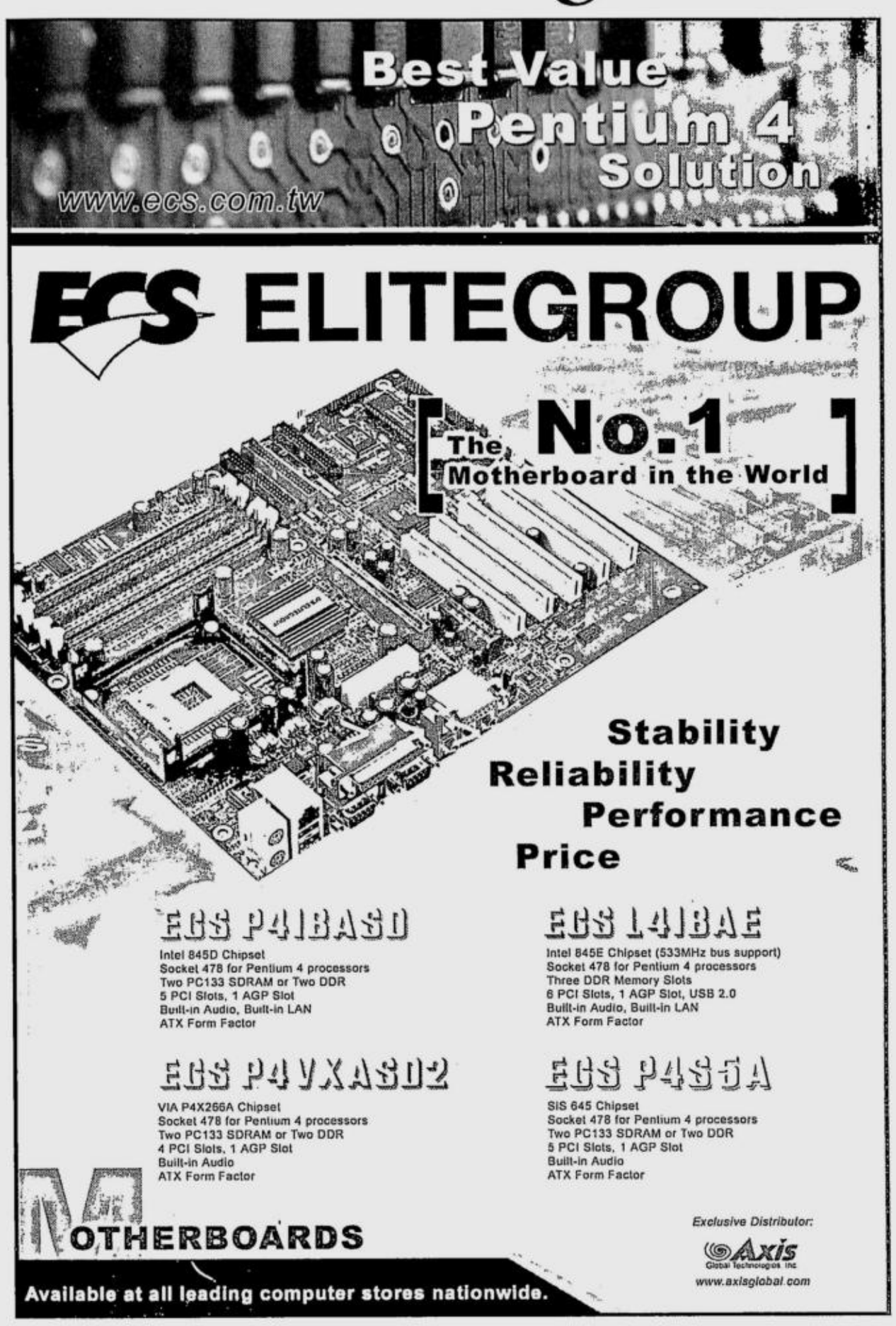
The prosecution lawyer expressed concern that the new judge might rely on the transcript alone produced by the court stenographer.

Considering that "technical terms" are used extensively during the earlier stages of the case, Romero said that he has requested to go over the transcript to check on these terms before it was finalized, and passed on to the new judge who will be appointed later.

"(The request) was not done in open court. I checked if the stenographer was able to get the words, technical terms because even the judge... there were some instances when the judge would ask the witness to repeat a statement involving a technical term," Romero noted.

During the hearing on June 19, Romero had to give an overview of what an Internet service provider is, before introducing one of the first witnesses, Martin Salazar, to the court.

Salazar is the technical manager of NewGen IT Corp., the Internet service provider of Thames International Business School, which provided evidence of Garcia's alleged illegal use of the school's e-mail system, court documents showed.



E-procurement project faces delay; bidding to restart

By Joel D. Pinaroc

THE ROLLOUT of the Philippine government's e-procurement system is expected to be delayed, following the failure of prospective bidders to submit eligibility requirements the Department of Budget and Management has put in place.

According to Budget chief Emilia Boncodin, the delay is inevitable since the DBM "wants a clean, transparent bidding process" for the e-procurement project that is seen as one of the key components for government to computerize its operations.

Boncodin, in a meeting with local information technology companies Monday, said prospective bidders will have to "start from scratch," should they want to participate on the massive undertaking.

The Government E-procurement System or GEPS was started by the Estrada administration and is designed primarily to provide a one-stop, online, real-time transaction system for government purchases.

The system is eventually expected to curb graft and corruption in government, especially in large government agencies where purchases reach billions of pesos every year.

"Since the government is the biggest single buyer of products and services, both non-IT and IT, the e-procurement system is really needed," Boncodin said.

She added that contrary to some reports, there was no failure in the bidding process and that prospective bidders for the project "were not able to meet qualifications" or failed to submit basic requirements to be eligible to bid.

"If a company cannot submit even one of the requirements to be eligible, like for example a mayor's permit, that company can no longer participate in the bidding," Boncodin said, noting that the requirements are strictly followed.

Executive Order 40, decreed by President Macapagal-Arroyo is also expected to play a significant part in the project, since the EO, aside from mandating the setting up of the e-procurement system, also covers the eligibility of multinational companies who may want to participate in the bidding.

Boncodin explained that EO 40 sets the rules on ownership of companies who are eligible to participate in government IT projects. The EO currently mandates that companies should be at least 60 percent Filipino-owned to be able to bid.

Boncodin, however, said the DBM is pushing for this executive order to be "relaxed" to allow more companies to participate in the bidding. This could be done by Congress, she explained, which is now currently reviewing the EO's possible elevation into a law.

Boncodin, who chairs the technical committee working on the project, said "there will be no irregularities" or "monkey business" in the bidding process.

Government agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Trade and Industry, among others, are part of this technical committee.

Boncodin said the GEPS is targeted to be fully implemented by 2003, despite the expected delay.

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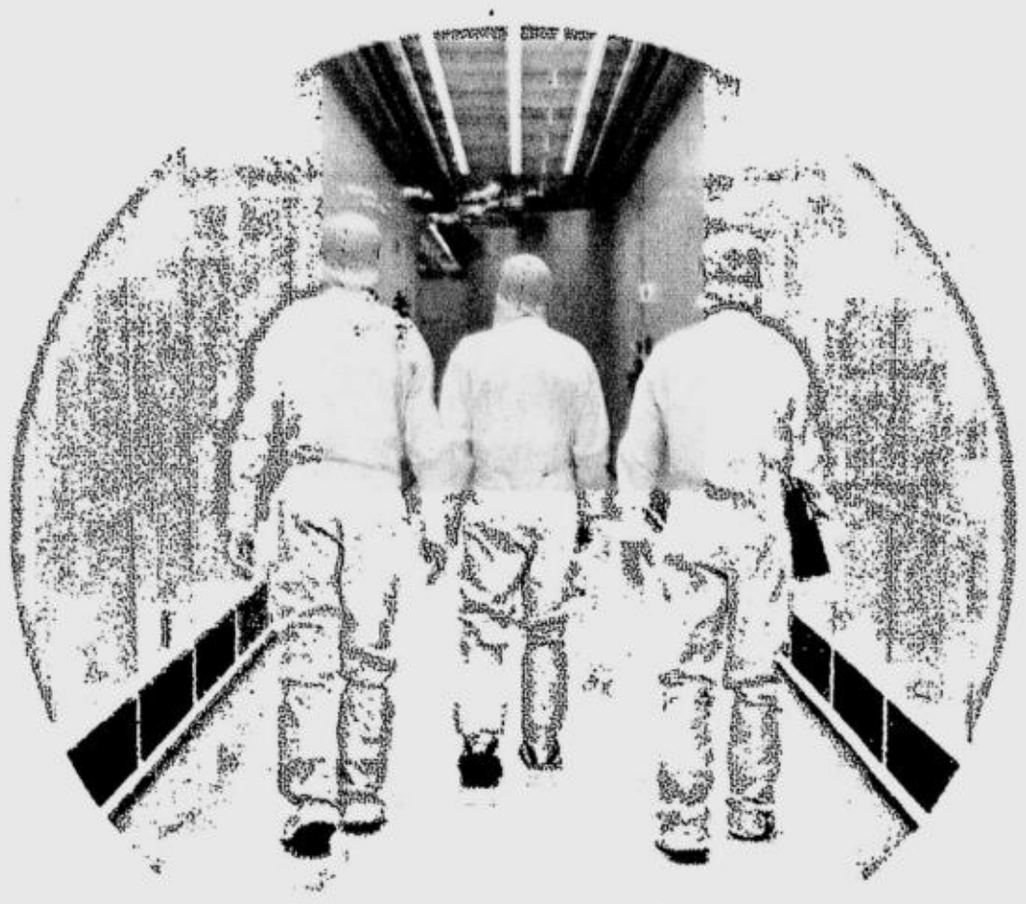

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Cyberbegging on the Net's skid row

NEW YORK—Karyn is a 20-something New Yorker. She's single, she works as a freelancer in TV production and she wants you to help pay off her shopping debt of about $20,000.

It's not a great sounding proposition. Nothing is offered in return, yet it seems people are queuing up to help out.

Since setting up her website—www.savekaryn.com—in late June, Karyn says she has had more than 200,000 hits and the money is starting to roll in, albeit along with some pretty unpleasant hate mail.

Karyn—she swears it's her real name but will not furnish a surname—started the website after she ran up a debt of $20,221 on her credit card indulging her passion for designer clothes.

The home page lays out the bottom line: "My name is Karyn, I'm really nice, and I'm asking for your help."

It asks all visitors to the site to fork out $1—or maybe two or five—and help whittle down the debt total to zero.

The first week she got $5, the third week $455 and the week ending July $28,135.

On the surface, the idea would appear to be a complete non-starter: a perfectly healthy, well-educated, highly employable young woman "cyberbegging" for loose change because she allowed her designer-shopping bug to get out of control.

Hardly a worthy cause, but Karyn's success, it seems, has come from embracing rather than side-stepping the obvious question of why anyone should help her.

"I'm going to be honest here... I wasn't out saving the world. I was just at Bloomingdale's," is her website's frank assessment of how she got in such a mess in the first place.

"I'm not a lazy person. I never have been," she said, pointing out that her irregular freelance television work involved long hours for little pay.

Not all the e-mails are supportive. In fact out of the 2,000-plus she has received, Karyn has filed around 50 percent in a file labeled "mean."

Some e-mail responses have included job offers, while others have been complimentary about her writing style.

POWERTIPS

Moving tables in MS Word

By Jerry Liao

WANT to create a table that you can move into any position on the page? Here's how:

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2. Draw a text box wherever you want your table to be.
3. Choose Table then Insert Table (Make sure that your cursor is inside the Text Box)
4. Specify the number of rows and columns, and click OK.
5. Select the Text Box then Format / Text Box
6. Choose the Wrapping tab and select Tight, and click OK

Word creates your table within the text box, which you can move to any position on the page by simply dragging the text box.

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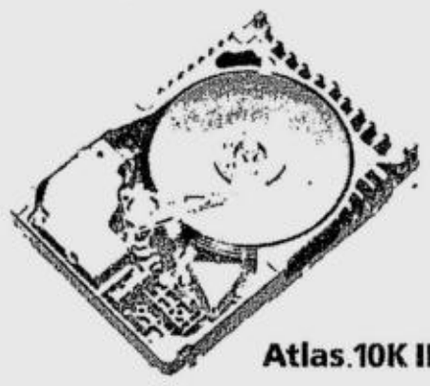

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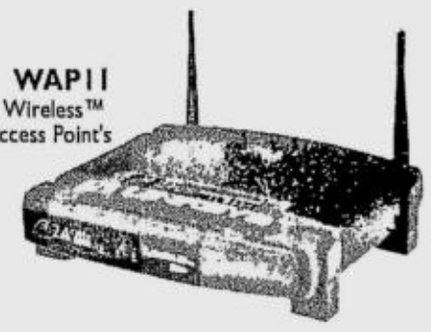

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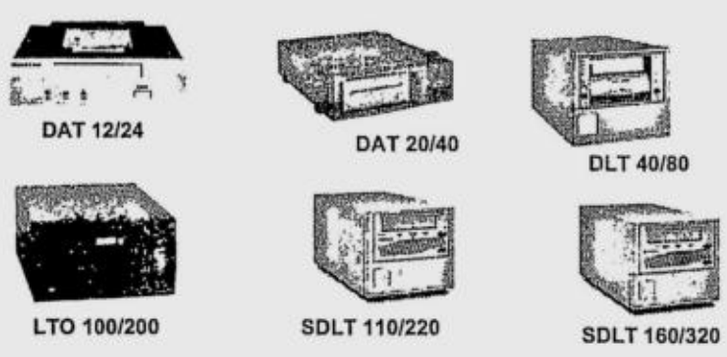

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BUSINESS

UCPB not for sale, CEO clarifies

By Clarissa S. Batino

UNITED Coconut Planters Bank dismissed on Friday reports that it was on sale, saying it was instead looking for investors willing to invest some P5 billion to P10 billion in fresh capital.

"The bank is not for sale. What we want to do is invite new investors to bring new capital into the bank. This move would consequently dilute existing shareholders," UCPB chair and chief executive Edward Go said in an interview.

This strategy is slightly different from an earlier plan to sell for P2 billion a 95-percent stake in UCPB to a buyer that will infuse P10 billion in new capital into the bank.

Under this plan, proceeds of the sale will be placed in an escrow account that will be handed over to whoever the Sandiganbayan identifies as the real owner of UCPB.

Coconut farmers with a stake in the bank and businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., a former close associate of former Presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada, are fighting over control of UCPB, which will likely have an impact on the ownership of the country's biggest food and beverage firm, San Miguel Corp.

Cojuangco currently sits as chair of San Miguel.

Go said the public was being given the wrong impression that the government was planning to sell UCPB as a whole.

He said the government ordered the Presidential Commission on Good Government to convince different farmers groups, as well as Cojuangco, to agree to the plan of inviting a new investor to pump fresh equity into the bank.

He said PCGG chief Haydee Yorac was likely to convince claimants of UCPB's sequestered shares to agree to be diluted in the event that a new investor would come in.

"The agreement would allow the management to invite investors to come into the bank. An ideal level of a fresh capital infusion would be between P5 billion and P10 billion," Go said.

He underscored his bank's need for fresh capital.

The bank's capital adequacy ratio has been way below the 10 percent prescribed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

This ratio is a measure of the amount of a bank's capital expressed as a percentage of its risk weighted credit exposures. It is used to protect depositors and promote the stability and efficiency of financial systems around the world.

UCPB needs some P5 billion to P10 billion to raise its capital adequacy ratio to 10 percent and about P10 billion to raise it to about 16 percent, the average ratio among banks of the same size.

UCPB's financial health—based on indicators like assets, capital, non-performing loans and level of foreclosed assets—continued to worsen in the second quarter.

The bank's total assets dropped to P96.35 billion in the second quarter from P100.3 billion in the first quarter and from P110.56 billion year-on-year.

HOMELESS couple Renato Isaac and his wife, Edna, who make a living by selling local and foreign brand cigarettes and candies, pass time with friends outside the Manila Children's Museum. Gripped by unemployment, the country's poor barely survive, as the government tries to find ways to address poverty and cope with a globalizing economy. The latest government statistics show that 30 percent of the Philippines' 80-million population live on less than P100 a day. AFP

NTC chief sees cell phone subscriber base to hit 20M in 7 years

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NUMBER of mobile phone users in the country will hit the 20-million mark in six to seven years, so the potential market for new industry players is still substantial, a telecommunications expert has predicted.

National Telecommunications Commission chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said the country would still see more people using cellular phones, as the wireless penetration rate just stood at around 15 percent of the population.

Wide estimates have placed the number of mobile phone subscribers in the country at 12 million.

"There's still a big potential market, but growth will be slowing down. There will still be growth, but not as big as in the past few years," Rio said in an interview last week.

Globe Telecom Inc. president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said in another interview, however, that growth would even be faster.

Wireless penetration rate will possibly reach 25 percent of the population by 2005, Ablaza said.

He said telecom companies had yet to tap a large part of the local population, particularly in areas outside the capital region.

The younger age brackets, he added, could still open more market opportunities.

Ablaza said metropolitan areas were already nearing "threshold levels" at 40 to 50 percent of the population.

The rest of the country, on the other hand, only has a wireless penetration rate of around 10 percent, he said.

"There are still a lot of opportunities in the provincial markets. This is why Globe is focusing its capex (capital expenditures) rollout on the provincial areas. The penetration in the provincial areas will still be taking a slice of the market," Ablaza said.

He added that the under-25 market remained generally untapped.

Globe reported that in the second quarter, it attracted an average 430,000 new subscribers, proving industry analysts wrong that subscriber growth would be starting a descent this year.

Despite the huge untapped market and the big potential for growth in cellular subscriber numbers, however, Rio said new players would have to offer really innovative services to lure new subscribers, and existing players would have to continuously upgrade their service offerings to keep their subscribers.

"Growth will ride on existing subscribers' usage of the services so there has to be new services that will encourage them to increase their usage," he said.

He said an improvement in the overall economy would help boost use of wireless services.

"Usage slowed down because the economy slowed down. When the economy gets better, telecom spending will also improve," he said.

BUSINESSMonday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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IN THE NAME OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

DOF hunts for 'virgins' to be sacrificed

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro is on the hunt for "virgins" who can be sacrificed on the altar of good governance.

By that he means young and idealistic lawyers, accountants, and bankers who will agree to work for the government, specifically the Department of Finance. The idealists will be part of an elite team that will comprise the internal affairs office he is briskly organizing.

"The key to this team is the individuals, so we are looking for young and idealistic professionals. Those who feel strongly about making things right in this country. *Yung* virgins *pa*," he says jokingly.

The crack team of the DOF, the mandate for which is still pending before Malacañang, would be headed by an executive director to be plucked by Camacho from among his deputies in the finance department.

"We would form our little SWAT team in the department," he says. The team will track down erring officials using leads given to the department. A lifestyle check will be one of the things the team will delve into.

An Executive Order mandating the creation of the DOF's internal affairs office, says Camacho, will be issued by Malacañang soon.

The executive director will be reporting directly to Camacho and will lead the team initially comprised of about 10 "virgin" professionals from the legal and accounting sectors.

But virgins are not the only ones Camacho is running after. He is also scouting for elders in the business community who will constitute the advisory committee to the crack team.

Camacho says the elders will provide the guidance and also form a check-and-balance on the operations of the internal affairs.

Among the names he ticked-off were Jesus P. Estanislao, the father of good governance; former Central Bank Governor Jose L. Cuisia; Dante Jimenez, head of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption; and former BIR Commissioner Bienvenido Tan (who during his terms at the bureau has similar plans of creating a crack team).

Camacho cautions that he has not formally asked any of these men to join the advisory group.

"We are looking for people who mean to help the government as a form of public service. We want lawyers to be part of the unit and business leaders to join the board of advisers," says the finance chief.

Despite the government's swollen deficit, Camacho says he can find a budget to finance the team as he stresses that forming the unit will involve a "small amount."

Initially, the DOF's version of a SWAT team will focus on corruption cases involving officials and staff of the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs where shady practices are believed to be most prevalent.

Corruption in government is one of the issues being raised by business groups as eroding investors' confidence along with peace and order problems, particularly kidnapping, and also smuggling.

The BIR and the Customs bureau are traditionally known to be the "bedrock" of corruption in the finance group. Illicit dealings by BIR and Customs officials are partly being blamed for the weak revenue collection of these agencies.

A finance official says that even without the crack team, the lawyers of DOF have already been working on some cases in the BIR and the Customs bureau. These leads will be turned over to the SWAT team once it is formed.

The internal revenue agency has already implemented serious measures to weed-out corruption among its ranks after firing nine staff last year and recommending the dismissal of 33 others this year for alleged corrupt practices.

BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez

DOF/ C3

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Comelec modernization

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Manuel A. Alcuaz Jr.

ACCORDING to former Commission on Election Chair Alfredo Benipayo, the principal task of the commission—its *raison d' etré*—has always been to ensure that the voice of the people be heard correctly and given full weight.

Thus, we are charged with conducting, free, honest, and credible elections. One of the means for the Comelec to be more effective in its principal task (mission) is through the effective use of information technology.

In order to be effective we have to understand the means used to cheat in elections. Decades ago, guns and goons were used to force people to vote for some candidates, to scare away opposition voters or to cheat in the tabulation of votes at the precinct level. This is done through ballot box stuffing, misreading, and/or miscounting.

Gradually, guns and goons faded away because people and government no longer allow this. Money and gold came into play to buy votes of legitimate voters or to encourage so called flying voters who register and vote more than once.

In the last few elections retail (precinct level) cheating has given way to wholesale cheating (at the city or provincial canvassing level).

The logic of wholesale cheating like *"dagdag bawas"* is, why go through so much effort to pay off individual voters and to encourage and transport flying voters, when with less money and effort you can get a Comelec official to add thousands of votes for you and subtract thousands of votes from your opponents.

Comelec's computerization efforts and expenditure should take the above into account. It should also adhere to laws that have been passed relative to the modernization of the Comelec. The two laws are Republic Act No. 8189 (The Continuing Registration Law) and Republic Act No. 8436 (An Act Authorizing the Commission on Election to use an Automated Election System for the May 11, 1998 Election and Subsequent Election Exercises).

RA 8189

The intention of RA 8189 is to systematize the method of registration in order to establish a clean, complete, and updated list of voters. The law provides for a central file arranged by precinct, municipality, city, and province in hard copy form. This would be based in third copies of the voter's registration record. The law also requires a national alphabetical listing by surname. This would be impossible without computerization.

Fortunately, the law also requires a computerized voters list and a program that can sort in varied sequences. The law also provides for a voter's ID that should as much as possible be tamper proof. It should contain the voter's name, address, date of birth, photograph, thumb mark, precinct number and the signature of the voter and the election registration chairman.

Finally, RA 8189 requires the assignment of voters identification number. The proposed coding scheme does not guarantee a unique number since it is possible to have two or more voters in a precinct with identical birth dates and initials.

Compliance with RA 8189

Comelec claims that their existing computers cannot store 40 million voters' record and cannot process more than 1 million voter records at a time. I have good news for the Comelec, hardware and software to store and sort 40 million voters records at the central site should not cost more than P2 million!

Application development should not cost P5 million. P500,000 would be more than enough. Provincial and city computer systems including database software should not cost more than P200,000 each. While the P294 million NCVL 2004 budget is modest compared to VRIS P6.5 billion it is still bloated!

The cost of compliance with RA 8189 can be very low and reasonable the Comelec through Commissioner Luzviminda G. Tancangco has come out with two mega projects which will be a waste of the people's money. These are:

Precinct Mapping and CVL Verification Project, and—P500 million

Voters Registration and Identification System (VRIS)—P6.5 billion

Both projects are supposed to be designed to comply with RA 8189 but no portion of the law specifies GIS based precinct mapping nor biometric finger print verification. This is the problem with projects wherein vendors are allowed to put in specifications.

Very often, specifications create a bloated project of little value. It is really irrelevant that Photokina at P6.5 billion was the lowest bidder with the highest function points. There is a more cost-effective way to achieve the objective.

A little common sense should convince you that if the objective is to prevent double and multiple voting a much more cost-effective technique is to use better indelible ink and to use it on the inkpad for thumb marks. This should be more effective than a little drop on the nail. All the ink you need should cost much less than P6.5 billion that VRIS will cost.

The VRIS project stands on very weak grounds. There is no law that requires you and me to get an ID in order to vote. If you are a registered voter and you know your precinct you can vote without having to show your ID. I have done this for many elections.

For purposes of discussion let me pinpoint the reason why VRIS is so expensive and why it will not work properly. One of the components of the VRIS system is the automated finger print identification and verification system, which Commissioner Tancangco hopes would identify voters who register more than once.

Photokina has not proven that you can compare 40 million fingerprints against millions of other fingerprints in the short time before the registration deadline. When a search is made through the FBI's finger print database its only a few (possibly thousands) of suspects at a time. Not millions.

No other country uses fingerprint comparisons to identify multiple voter registration. Simply because it is not cost-effective, practical and feasible.

In its proposal Photokina claims that a fingerprint can be verified in 10 seconds. Even at 10 seconds per voter, 3 million verifications would take 30 million seconds. Or 8,333 hours. There are only 720-728 hours a month. The National Precinct Mapping and CVL Verification project is another expensive project of Commissioner Tancangco costing P500 million.

It bundles two components, the generation of computerized precinct maps and the verification of voter's lists. While not as expensive as VRIS, this again looks like a vendor-pushed project rather than requirements driven.

The project objective—clean-up of the computerized voters list is valid, however, there are less expensive and more effective ways of cleaning up voters lists. For example, giving the voters lists to parties and civic organizations at the cost of reproduction of the lists.

These organizations would then submit their finding to Comelec for exclusion proceedings. There is no need for massive data entry since there are already about 37 million computerized voters records organized by precinct.

Computer-based precinct maps are nice to have. For cities and municipalities where there are updated street maps, this would be very easy to digitize and print. However, where there are no available maps a lot of work will be required.

It would be more logical for precinct mapping to be limited to cities and urbanized municipalities. After all in thousands of barrios with about 10 precincts, GIS maps are not needed to help voters find their precinct.

(Note: I understand that precinct mapping was done at no cost to Comelec. Where is the P500 million being spent?)

Part II of this article will discuss computerized voting, counting, and canvassing.

(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines, member of Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines and vice president of IT4Biz. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

Equitable CEO meets top clients

EQUITABLE PCI Bank chair Antonio L. Go formally introduced newly elected president and CEO Rene J. Buenaventura to top customers and friends of the bank in a series of cocktails.

"The board is very pleased to have recognized the achievements and outstanding credentials of Rene Buenaventura. We have every confidence that Rene will lead the bank to be the best bank to deal with and to greater heights of achievements," Go said.

Clients and friends joined Go and some members of the bank's top management in Cebu and Davao as they greeted Buenaventura in welcome cocktails.

The events further strengthened Equitable PCI Bank's presence in these areas and reinforced its commitment to be an active partner in the development of these regions.

"Through the bank's various branches in these regions and through its officers and staff, the bank has always striven to be at the forefront in providing world-class and relevant financial services to address both the commercial and consumer requirements of our clients," Buenaventura said.

FAST Group of Companies chair Victor Chiongbian (left), Carlos Go of Cebu Sulpicio Lines Inc., Simon Chuache of Simon Enterprises and Equitable bank chair Antonio L. Go

EQUITABLE PCI Bank chair Antonio L. Go with (from left), Jess Tan, Equitable PCI Bank corporate banking group head and EVP Walter Wassmer and Jake Lu.

FROM left, retail banking group head and SVP Dennis B. Velasquez, Equitable PCI AVP Angelita Manulat, Gina Gaisano of Tai-Pan group, Equitable VP Aimee Yu and Equitable trader Christine Wong

A TOAST for the new bank president. Equitable chair Antonio L. Go (left), president and CEO Rene J. Buenaventura, treasury group head and EVP Bienvenido M. Juat, EVP Walter C. Wassmer.

FROM left Equitable PCI Bank president and CEO Rene J. Buenaventura, Uy Ching Siong, Jude Ralph Yap and Equitable PCI Bank commercial banking group head and EVP Antonio N. Cotoco.

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DOF hunts for 'virgins' to be sacrificed

From page C1

says he had recommended the termination of 33 revenue officers and collection agents who were found to have erred in remitting collections, incurred cash shortages, falsified and tampered official receipts, and misappropriated revenue collections.

Bañez stresses that the BIR officers and employees to be terminated were found to have erred during the first half of the year when the bureau's collection sagged against its target even during the tax-payment month of April.

The dismissal of corrupt revenue officers, notes Bañez, is part of the reform program that the internal revenue agency had vowed to implement aggressively.

Of the 33 erring staff whose names the BIR withheld, five had filed a motion for reconsideration but were denied. The dismissal of 16 employees is about to be served and the cases against the remaining 12 are being reviewed by the DOF's Board of Personnel Inquirer and Review, says Bañez.

"Reforming the BIR and Customs is integral to the process of promoting good governance and enhancing the business and investment environment of the Philippines while we seek to meet our program deficit target this year," the finance chief notes.

When asked to describe how his "little SWAT team" will operate, Camacho says: "Just like in the movies."

Bananas or electronics: What should RP sell?

From page C3

Australia could also be a "services exporter," he added, suggesting technical consultancy, water/irrigation/sewerage systems management as areas worth exploring.

Despite the good first-semester showing of exports, especially electronics and garments, however, local businessmen insist that the Philippines' competitive advantage is in commodities and agricultural products.

"Our electronics manufacturing industry is still largely assembly-based," observed Edgardo Legarda, country head of DBS Bank. Besides, our exports have a big import component. It's our agriculture sector, especially our big growers, that could use more funding to boost production.

"We're not ready to compete with big electronics exporters like Malaysia, and not because we don't try hard enough. Electronics is not our strength," said Rene Benitez, president of Amalgamated Investment Bancorp. "But we're the world's third largest banana exporter. We are the biggest exporter to northern China, and we are now even exporting to New Zealand.

For his part, Mason said Australia must understand that its acceptance of Philippine bananas is a high-priority issue here. "Australia must not underestimate the inevitability of the Philippines' winning access (to the Australian market)," he added, but declined to say categorically that he was optimistic of a positive outcome.

In a presentation to Secretary Roxas, Mason said the sourcing of mango exports should be expanded to Mindanao. At present Australia accepts only mangoes from Guimaras, which naturally, has only a limited supply.

He urged Australia to review quarantine rules soon. At the same time, he said, Philippine rules also have restrictive aspects, resulting, for example, in a limited import of Australian oranges. "The Philippines also needs to review its quarantine rules," he said.

As for Philippine pineapples, he saw a solution at hand. The Philippines could accept the condition set by Biosecurity Australia that the fruits be decrowned. But Australia could accept the Philippine condition that the fruits be fumigated with a solution that does not use bromide.

EXPORT AND INDUSTRY BANK

**NOTICE OF
2002 ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING**

NOTICE is hereby given that the 2002 annual stockholders' meeting of EXPORT AND INDUSTRY BANK, INC., [Formerly Urban Bank, Inc.] will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2002, at 8:30 A.M., at the G/F, ExportBank Plaza, Chino Roces Ave., cor. Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Due Notice of the Meeting and Determination of a Quorum
3. Chairman's Report
4. Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation and the Revised By-Laws to Increase the Number of Directors to 18
5. Election of Directors
6. Election of External Auditor
7. Other Matters
8. Adjournment

Only common and preferred shareholders of record as of August 22, 2002 will be entitled to notice of, and vote at, said meeting. For this purpose, the stock and transfer books of the Corporation will be closed starting from 5:00 p.m. on August 22, 2002 to Sept. 12, 2002.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a signed PROXY instrument to the Corporate Secretary, Export and Industry Bank, 37/F ExportBank Plaza, Chino Roces Ave., cor. Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m., Sept. 5, 2002, for verification and record purposes. The proxy instrument shall conform with the requirements of the Corporation Code, and shall be affixed with a duly paid documentary stamp tax in accordance with Sec. 192 of the National Internal Revenue Code.

As required in the Revised By-Laws, nominations for the Directors to be elected by the stockholders during the meeting shall be in writing, signed by the nominating stockholder, and submitted to the Board of Directors, through the Corporate Secretary, at the same address as above, not later than 5:00 p.m., Aug, 22, 2002.

Makati City, 9 August 2002

(Sgd.) RAMON F. AVIADO, JR.
Corporate Secretary

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESSMonday

MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2002

Bananas or electronics: What should RP sell?

By Angelina G. Goloy
Contributor

WHILE Manila is trying to convince Canberra to accept locally grown bananas, an Australian economist has suggested that the Philippines could be "a manufacturing powerhouse."

Furniture, electronics and computing equipment, and car components are products that would seem to be a niche for the Philippines, says Bernard Shuttleworth, senior economist at Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ).

He made the remarks in an interview in Melbourne weeks before Canberra released the draft Import Risk Analysis (IRA) report on Philippine bananas, which Manila is appealing.

Meanwhile, an Australian businessman in the Philippines has encouraged further discussions on IRA and urged both countries to review their respective quarantine rules as the controversy "is blocking trade in both directions."

Bill Mason, immediate past president of the Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (Anzcham) and chair of the advocacy committee, said in a separate interview here that Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II and his Australian counterpart should "look at designated areas where fruits (from each other's countries) could be accepted."

In Melbourne, Shuttleworth acknowledged that agriculture and food are the "biggest trade areas" between Australia and the region. But he also underscored the potentials of the manufacturing industry.

"You may not have the lowest wage rates around, but you have a good supply of trainable labor," he says, citing a Hong Kong research, based on surveys of expatriate businesses in Asia, showing the Philippines to have the best combination of wage rates, education and reliability.

"So a foreign business prepared to spend a bit on training (both factory floor and supervisory staff) can achieve lower costs per unit of product in the Philippines than in countries that have lower weekly wages," he explained.

Describing Australia and East Asian countries like the Philippines as "natural trading partners," he also said, ideally, the former could supply the raw materials needed by the latter in the manufacture of their products. Australia's advantage is in energy (coal and gas) and base metals, he said.

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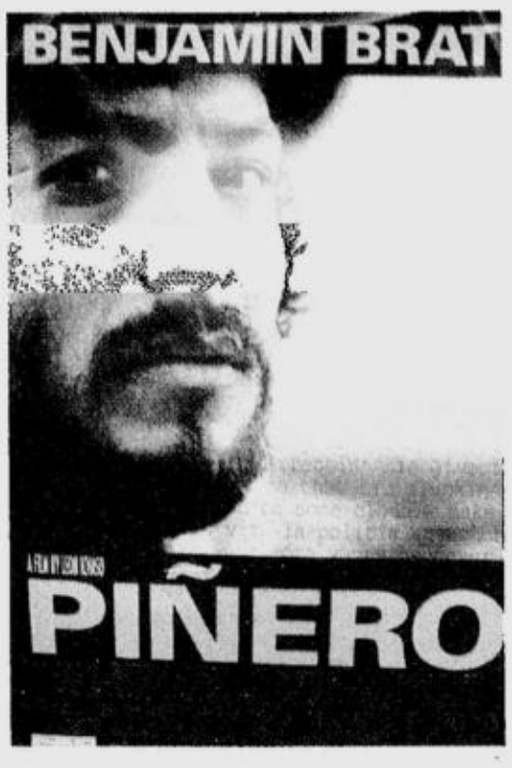
LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso ● Subsection Editor Lito B. Zulueta

Arts! Design DI

Some strong contenders in Cinemanila



By Constantino C. Tejero

A LOT of excellent films have been programmed for screening at the 4th Cinemanila International Film Festival, extended until Aug. 31 in the Greenbelt 1 cinemas at Ayala Center, Makati City.

The sad part is, almost half of them may not see the light at all, courtesy of the Movie & Television Review & Classification Board and the Bureau of Customs. The funny part is, tonight is the awarding ceremony, yet some of the competition films have not yet been shown to the public.

For many of us who like to compare notes after seeing each entry, on which shall we base our choices? On press releases? On reviews in film magazines from abroad?

Considering the temper of the MTRCB, we are about to give up on ever seeing on the wide screen the Korean "Kojitmal" and the Russian "A Place on Earth"—the former an orgy of sadomasochistic acrobatics and the latter a specimen of the Cinema of Abjection. But we may yet find them later in the cozy enclave of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, whose screenings do not have to go through censorship.

Based on what we've seen so far of the few out of 17 competition entries, we have already several candidates for tonight's awards. Some strong contenders had been screened, but we couldn't find the chance to catch them:

SOME/ p.D2

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Some strong contenders in Cinemanila

From page D1

Hungary's "Chico," by Ibolya Fekete; Hong Kong's "Hollywood Hong Kong," by Fruit Chan.

For ethical reason, we refrain from raving over or making any snide remark on our entries, Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Bagong Buwan" and Joel Lamangan's "Hubog." In other words, no comment.

But we can't help but wholeheartedly endorse Singapore's "I Not Stupid," by Jack Neo. It may not win any award tonight, but it's a winning film. The title notwithstanding, it's an intelligent film disguised as a silly romp, a satire on living and lifestyle in that police state.

That leaves us with three strong bets.

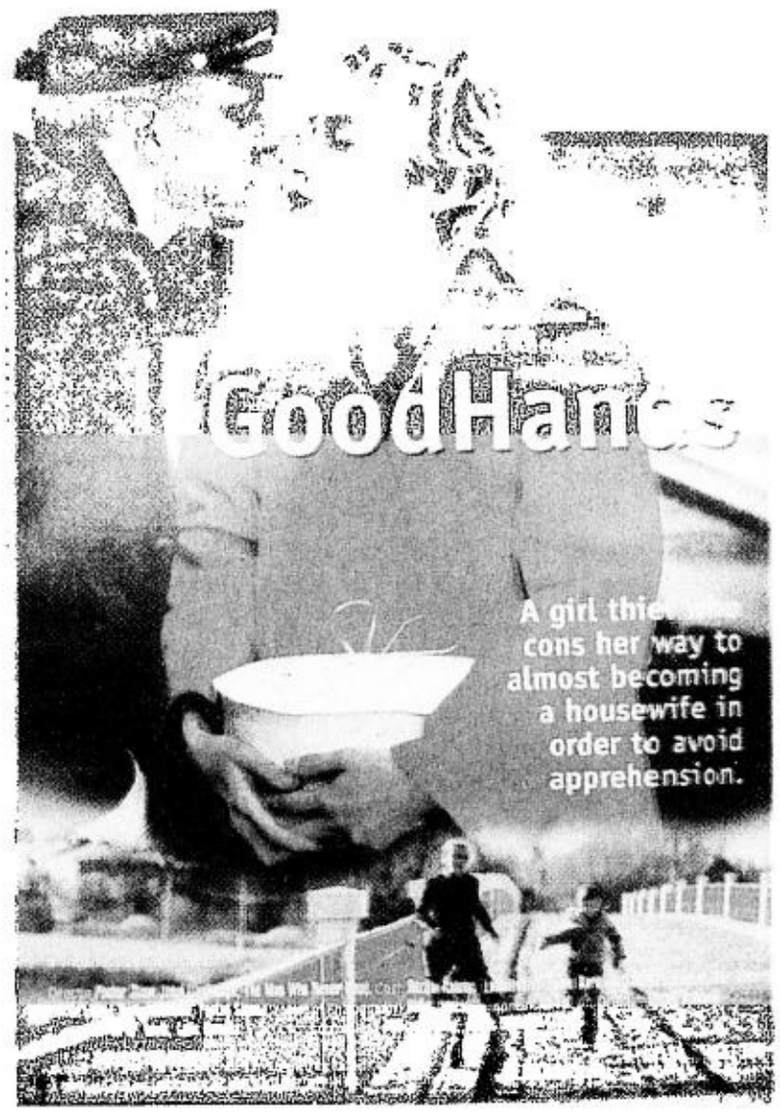
Chile's "Taxi para Tres," by Orlando Lubbert, is a lovely film with strong performances, particularly by Alejandro Trejo, who can win Best Actor for his rôle as a taxi driver on a dangerous odyssey through the streets of Santiago. The film abounds in allusions too subtle they could well be lost to the ordinary viewer: Penelope waiting at her sewing machine; Telemachus searching for a father figure; Christ on the way to Calvary.

Taiwan's "What Time Is It There?," by Tsai Ming-liang, is a complex film, which could mean it is complicated to some and incoherent to others. Composed in long, long takes, sharp images, and a near absence of dialogue, it is almost existential in its depiction of the essential loneliness of the individual. It may not be Tsai's best but it certainly belongs to his poetic oeuvre, and he may yet win the Best Director and the Best Screenplay for this.

Canada's "Atanarjuat the Fast Runner," by Zacharias Kunuk, is our favorite. This one, to us, should be the Best Picture.

There are other strong contenders, of course, but they haven't been screened yet, so we are in the dark as to their real merits: Austria's "Dog Days," by Ulrich Seidl; Venezuela's "Una Casa con Vista al Mar," by Alberto Arvelo; China's "Seafood," by Zhu Wen; Mexico's "Y Tu Mamá Tambien," by Alfonso Cuaron.

If Singapore could exhibit a Singaporean film like "I Not Stupid" in this year's Singapore International Film Festival, it makes us wonder why some Filipinos would want to deprive others from seeing films that they might not even have understood. What's wrong with us?



Asian and European filmmakers join forces against the Hollywood bugaboo

ONE of the wilder dreams of the late Filipino filmmakers Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal—to raise the Philippines' profile as "a center for new and independent filmmaking in Southeast Asia"—seems to be coming true, after all.

Cinemanila, the international film festival ongoing at Greenbelt 1 in Makati City, serves as a conduit, and festival founder and director Tikoy Aguiluz seems determined to bear the burden of that vision. A special—and crucial—feature of the event is the Film Development Plan, a collaborative effort of Cinemanila and the Asia-Europe Foundation, modeled after the Pusan Promotion Plan of the international filmfest in Korea.

Some 30 Asian and European representatives and five Filipino projects have been invited to participate in the special panel discussions, roundtable conference and workshops to be held at the Asian Institute of Management on Aug. 12-15. Film directors, producers and scriptwriters have been invited to present and discuss their projects "at the earliest stages of creation"—to get support in terms of financing, expertise, networking, pre-selling, distribution.

To chair the conference is Belgian documentary filmmaker, producer and critic Henri Roanne-Rosenblatt, who is also the administrator of the Film Fund of Luxembourg and a board member of the Cinema Museum of Brussels and of the Cinémathèque Royale de Belgique.

Important issues

This is Rosenblatt's first time in Manila, and his only experience of Philippine cinema is one or two Brocka films, but no Bernal. "In Europe, we don't know very well about Asian cinema," he says. "What we know of it is not enough."

He hopes the conference will expand peoples' knowledge of one another's culture, specifically national cinema, not only on the global plane but also on the personal level.

"I want to present things in a concrete way," he continues. "In this kind of conference, I learn as much as the people who attend. We learn together—what kind of mechanism is needed to stimulate the production of film, the exchange of expertise and ideas, distribution. Networking is very important."

Aside from cooperation between Asian and European filmmakers, important issues to be discussed in the roundtable are globalization and Hollywood domination. Rosenblatt estimates that 70-90 percent of the European film market is controlled by Hollywood blockbusters—that big.

"Like you, there is a big pressure on us from American cinema," he says. "Europe struggles to preserve the identities of its national cinemas. Each country tries to do it through promotion, coproduction, marketing, things like that. This initiative in Cinemanila is very important."

Crucial points

Rosenblatt believes that, first, there should be better circulation of films in the region, before they go to the rest of the world. A crucial point is government support, as he points out in the experience of his own country.

He estimates that the Belgian film industry receives about 60-percent government support (not necessarily financial)—and the rest of the world can see the result. Belgium is such a small country, no bigger than an average-size Philippine province, and it produces an average of 10 films annually, yet seldom has there been a year in major international film festivals when a Belgian film does not receive an award or two.

This applies as well to films of the other tiny countries in that region, such as the Dutch and the Flemish. Notable recent examples would be "Daens," "Toto the Hero," "Antonia's Line," "The Eighth Day," "The Promise," "Rosetta," "A Pornographic Affair," "Karakter." One may even include this year's Oscar Best Foreign-Language Film, "No Man's Land," which is Belgian-produced and whose Bosnian director Danis Tanovic studied in a film school in Brussels.

"We have high standards in our film schools," says Rosenblatt. "But it took us years to establish this high level in our film industry. Well, like the rest of the world, of the 8-10 films we produce annually, 2-3 films may win international awards, but the rest are garbage."

National crisis

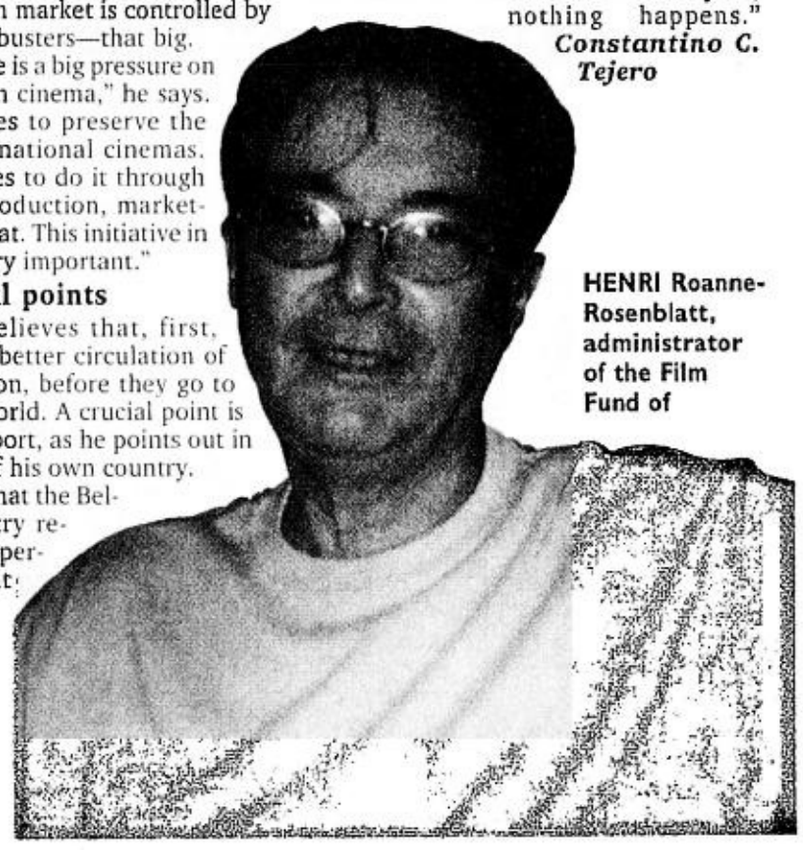
The point is, his country has no film censorship, and such liberalization may be a form of government support. "I would say, violence in film is more damaging than sex. If it's all sex, it's boring."

Another crucial point is, the filmmaker is not beholden to the government. "Filmmakers are not beggars. From the economic point of view, it is only fair that the government should support the industry..." Because these films bring in the revenues by way of taxes, the festival boosts tourism, and the national cinema represents and promotes the country and culture abroad.

Active in film criticism from 1956 to 1980, Rosenblatt has observed that cinema, or the arts for that matter, usually thrive during or after a crisis. Important movements rose during a critical time in a nation's history: from the Russian silents during the Bolshevik Revolution, the German Expressionists during the rise of Nazism, to Neorealism in postwar Italy, the New Wave in the Paris of the radical 1960s, the Free Cinema at times of labor unrest in Britain, the Young German Film during the Cold War, the Hollywood Renaissance during the Vietnam War, the Third Cinema out of the various uprisings and revolutions from Latin America to Africa, the Middle Eastern national cinemas at times of internecine conflicts, and, we would like to add, our two Golden Ages in the postwar and martial-law years.

These days Rosenblatt sees Korean cinema emerging after the decade of the Iranian films. "In countries where it's quiet, nothing happens."

Constantino C. Tejero



HENRI Roanne-Rosenblatt, administrator of the Film Fund of

Search for young art scholars

THE PHILIPPINE High School for the Arts (PHSA), through its Annual Nationwide Search for Young Art Scholars (Ansyas) program, is now accepting applications for full secondary education scholarship for SY 2003-04. The yearly search aims to ensure a continuing source of artists of excellence and leaders in the promotion and preservation of the Filipino art and culture.

PHSA screens Grade VI and VII pupils from both private and public elementary schools and accepts a limited number of students in the field of Dance (Ballet and Folk), Music (Voice and Instrument), Theater Arts, Creative Writing and Visual Arts. Once accepted, the scholars are awarded free tuition, free board and lodging, a monthly stipend, and the privilege to represent the country and the school in local and international art festivals, camps, competitions and youth exchange programs with partner countries. The grant is renewable every year for four consecutive school years upon completion of academic and satisfaction of non-academic requirements.

Application forms are available free of charge from any of the following sources: Department of Education division offices; National Commission for Culture and the Arts, General Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila; Dramatic Arts, Music, Visual Arts, Literary and Dance Divisions, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Pasay City; Department of Interior and Local Government unit offices; National Music Competitions for Young Artists office, Folk Arts Theater, Pasay City; PHSA-Manila office, Folk Arts Theater, Pasay City; and PHSA, National Arts Center, Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna.

Deadline for submission of applications are Sept. 20 for Luzon, Oct. 18 for Visayas and Nov. 8 for Mindanao.

All fully accomplished scholarship application forms and other pertinent documents must be sent directly to Dean Honrado R. Fernandez, executive director, c/o Ansyas 2003, Philippine High School for the Arts, National Arts, Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna. Call Reynaldo O. Wong at (049) 536-5972/2862 or Lea Aliangan of PHSA-NCR office at 832-1120 local 112.

Deadline for Boracay lifestyle photo tilt set

OPEN to professional and amateur photographers, the Boracay Lifestyle Photo Contest is being held until Aug. 30. New and old photos on scenery, people, events, architecture, island life and other subjects that capture the "Boracay Lifestyle" may be submitted as entries. Entries must be printed in 8 x 10" photo paper from a digital source or film format, in either color or black and white.

To join, participants must accomplish a Boracay Lifestyle Photo Contest entry form to be submitted with their entries on or before Aug. 30. Entries must be submitted to Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., Unit 6-D Cypress Gardens Condominium, 112 Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Entries will be judged according to relevance (40 percent) composition, balance and creativity (25 percent) and visual impact (35 percent). Winners are required to submit the negatives or digital files of their entries.

Three winners will be selected and will win the following prizes: grand prize—P15,000, second prize—P10,000, and third prize—P5,000. Each of these three winners will also enjoy a four-day, three-night trip to Boracay for two, with accommodation at the Sun Village Beachfront inclusive of roundtrip airfares and land transfers.

Winning entries and selected entries will be used in the publication of the book "The Boracay Lifestyle" with appropriate credits.

Participants can send in as many entries as they want. In the event that a participant wins more than one prize, he/she shall receive only the bigger prize.

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UP Diliman to offer MA in Film

IN NOVEMBER, the UP College of Mass Communication (CMC) will offer the first MA in Film under the Media Studies program. The program combines theory and production courses in film and in media studies.

The film program joins three other existing programs—MA Media Studies (Broadcasting), MA Media Studies (Journalism) and MA Communication (Communication Research).

Since 1984, CMC also has been offering the only four-year undergraduate bachelor's degree in film in the Philippines.

For more information, call 920-6864 or visit the CMC website www.upd.edu.ph/cmc.

Heritage lectures set

ANVIL Publishing, National Book Store, PowerBooks, and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) are sponsoring free lectures for teachers, librarians and students in celebration of the country's cultural heritage titled "Pamana ng Lahi, Dangal ng Bayan" this August. The NCCA will also release its new publications—"Bulawan" Volumes 3 and 4, "In God We Trust," "Visita Iglesia," and "Sanghaya" 2001 and 2002.

The lectures are: "Towards an Appreciation of the Cultural Heritage of the Church" by Prof. Regalado Trota Jose on Aug. 13, 4:30 p.m., at PowerBooks on Arnaiz Avenue in Makati; and "De-centering Philippine Culture" by Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera on Aug. 30, 4:30 p.m., at National Book Store on Quezon Avenue.

Professor Trota Jose was named one of the 100 Centennial Artists by the CCP in 1999. He is affiliated with the Permanent Committee for the Cultural Heritage of the Church of the CBCP. He teaches at the University of Sto. Tomas Graduate School, Cultural Heritage Studies Program.

Lumbera received the 1993 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts. He has a doctorate degree in comparative literature from the Indiana University.

Call 671-9235/1899.

Breaking a kid's heart

By Luna Griño-Inocian
Contributor

AUDITIONS are difficult enough for adults. Countless numbers of hopeful performers will attest to having their hopes dashed, their egos crushed and their dreams shattered at auditions. Though it is "character building" and "part and parcel of an actor's life," it is nevertheless painful and downright discouraging. You could write volumes about the horror stories actors have about their experiences.

OF STAGE

The process is no less painful for the audition panel. Some of the best actors are in the panel. Just imagine trying to keep a straight face as an auditoner sings a song without hitting a single correct note. Members of the panel have to (many, many, many times), and they do so with impassive faces that belie the strong desire either to laugh or burst into tears. After all, auditoners must be handled with kid gloves and the panel must always be mindful that they are dealing with human feelings and sensibilities.

Greater burden

The burden on the panel is even greater when children are involved. We are talking about permanently affecting even more fragile egos and developing minds here... and the possibility of major trauma.

Take our auditions for "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." A hundred kids show up! Most of them can sing. Many of them look very good, so good that we call back—60 of them.

Then the weeding out process begins. Parents are gathered in a separate room prior to the audition proceedings and given **the talk**. "We are only looking for eight children so naturally, many of you will go home disappointed. Your children will need your support and your comfort. Please assure them that it does not mean they are 'bad' or untalented if they are not cast. We are looking for very specific character types, and they just may not be right for the role..." Of course I know the talk. I get to give it.

Thankfully, the director (Jaime del Mundo) gets to give a similar talk to the kids themselves, except one ran up to me afterwards and asks, "What did he mean?" and you have to give **the talk** all over again. Somewhere in this daunting task, and I thank God the director gets to do it.

There is the inevitable let-down and the attendant crying. The nearer the auditioners get to the wire, the louder the weeping and wailing... and the more difficult it is to announce the cut.

I mean, "You were all wonderful but..." is not enough to soothe the hurt of rejection. When they come to you, look up and say, "I didn't make it?" you just want to say, "Earth swallow me up right now! I have just broken this young, fragile heart!"

Happily, however, young hearts mend, maybe even faster than their more mature counterparts. Kids bounce back like proverbial balls and are back the following year when you call for auditions for yet another musical. Then you sigh and say, "Hey! They are okay after all!" And that makes you feel better.

Yeah, right!

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

You may need a 'child life specialist' to break the news to a kid auditioner that he won't make the cut

theater rules limbo. I guess it says that "women are mothers (or potential mothers) and are better able to explain stuff like this."

After an extensive two-hour workshop and the first round of auditions, it becomes obvious who will make the cut and who won't. Some have great voices but just can't reach the notes, others speak heavily-accented English; still others are either too old or too young for the available roles... and some are really, really bad. But try saying that to a pair of very young, very hopeful eyes. I swear, even the bravest person would balk.

'Axe-man'

But these things have to be said and there is always much pushing and shoving and finger-pointing as to who the "axe-man" will be. Nerves of steel and heart of ice are needed for

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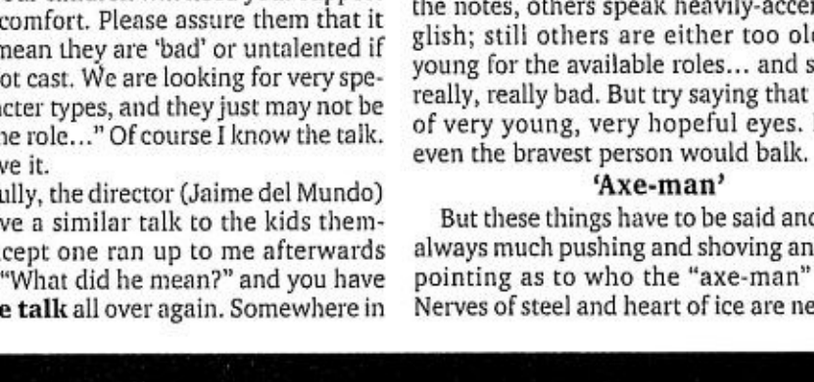

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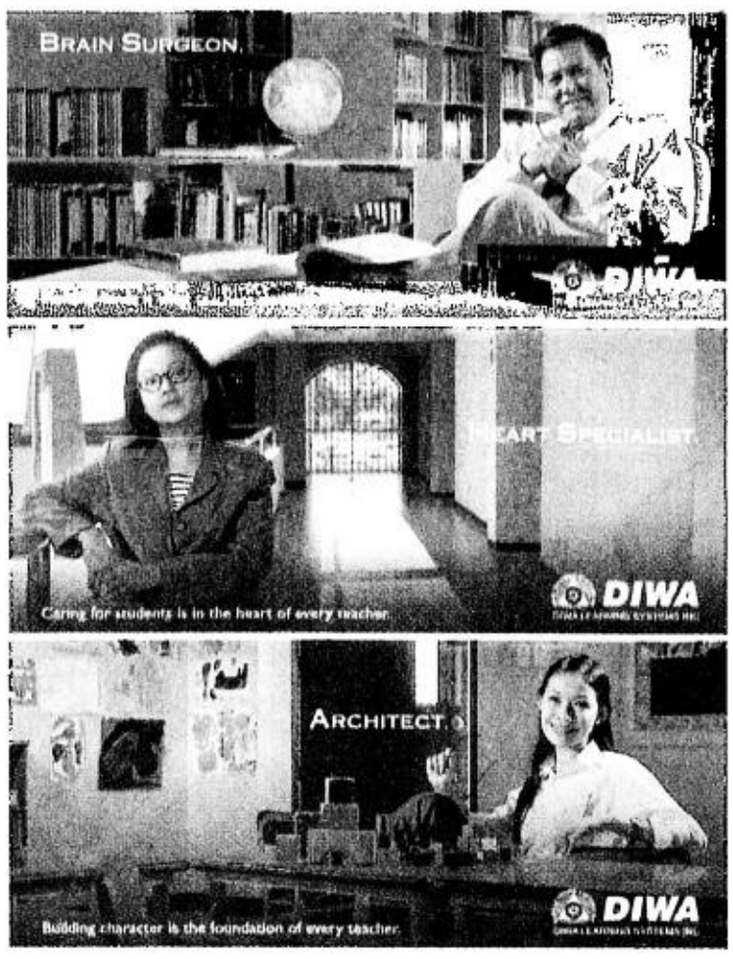
Generations of Filipinos past have stereotyped her look. She is described as a wide-bespectacled spinster wearing an old-fashioned dress with a long skirt. Her hair is tied in a bun and a smirk is forever etched in her face. She holds a stick in her hand powdered with chalk dust and her voice would always resemble a snarl. That is the painting of a teacher in their minds. Overworked. Underpaid. Unappreciated.

But she takes it in graceful stride. Her chin is always held high as she enters the classroom and a smile bursts like a ray of sunlight when her students greet her, "Good morning, teacher." For she knows the tremendous calling in her hands. In her palm are the characters, the hearts and the minds of the country's tomorrow. She is a future maker.

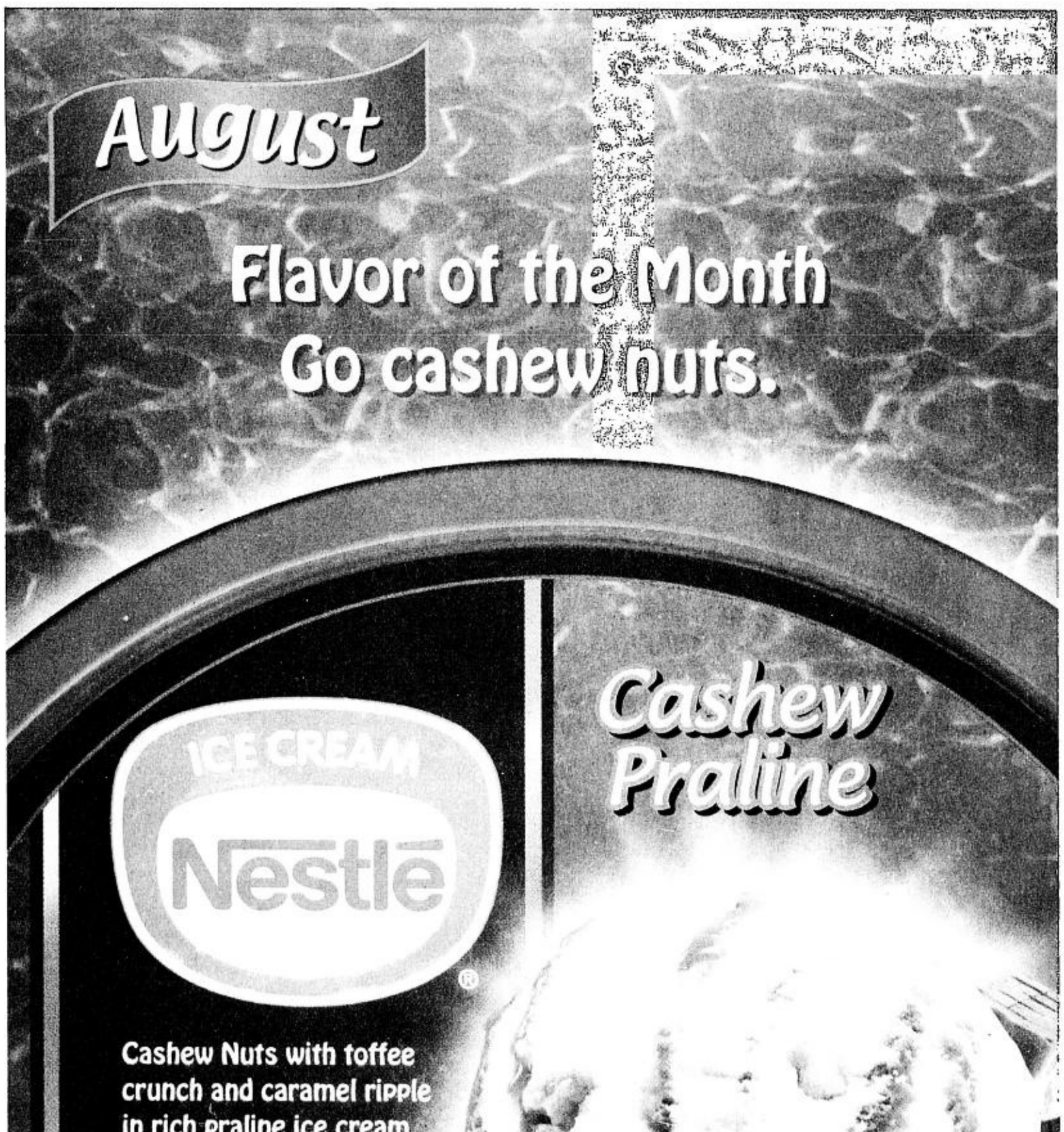
This country has always looked up to doctors, architects, bankers, businessmen, engineers, lawyers and many others. But before these people came to be, they all passed through the delicate and gentle care of "Ma'am, Miss, Teacher, Sir, Professor." Without them, this great nation is sewn with a fragile thread of ignorance that leads to untold disaster. To the teachers' work, DIWA Learning Systems Inc gives their thanks.



DIWA Learning Systems Inc pays tribute to the professors of all profession. In a series of print ads in major national newspapers, DIWA has likened the teacher's work with equal magnanimity as those of other vocations, if not more. DIWA believes it is but proper to bestow honor to the country's teachers not only through awards which only a few people would know but to imprint their sacrifice and achievements in our lives into the national consciousness. Gratitude is an important virtue our teachers taught us. DIWA is just returning the favor.

The print ads compared the teacher to an architect who builds our characters, a heart specialist who cares for our emotions and a brain surgeon who molds our minds with precision. Of course, they can also be like bankers who guard the country's treasure, which is the youth, or like businessmen who invest their lives for their students' profit. But whatever occupation you might compare them to, the truth is, the teacher's job is a most noble pursuit.

Generations past have always stereotyped the teachers. But even so, please keep in your mind that the bun in her hair is a royal crown, the stick in her hand is a golden scepter and the trail of eager students following her is a long flowing cape. She is nobility personified and when her majesty enters the classroom, remember to always take a bow. Our teachers deserve the honor.



BELGIAN Ambassador Roland Van Remoortele and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Fond Belgian adieu and fond tribute to hubby

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

FRIENDS from diplomatic and business circles attended Belgian Ambassador **Roland Van Remoortele** and lovely wife **Sylvia**'s farewell to Manila at their residence, happy to know that the popular couple would only be a hop and a skip away in Malaysia. This would only be a couple of hours away from Sylvia's family in Singapore and fulfill the Ambassador's fondness for sand, sea and sun.

Our hostess, a certified diver, was especially fetching in a white pique suit and pearls, showing off an enviable tan that no doubt was abetted by her diving weekends. **Gemma Araneta**, all ready for her Mexican vacation, had inadvertently dropped by another embassy reception on her way to the Belgians and couldn't move because her car had been sent off, but was luckily rescued by Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Ramirez**.

Among the guests were American Ambassador **Francis Ricciardone**, German Ambassador **Herbert** and **Micheline Jess**, French Ambassador **Renee Veyret**, **Beth Day Romulo**, Consul **Evie Costa**, **Paz Yuchengco**, Saudi Ambassador **Saleh Mohammad Al-Ghamdi**, Mexican Ambassador **Enrique** and **Mariana Hubbard**, and **Linda Panlilio**, who is now getting ready for the launch of a book by several well-known personalities on getting on with one's life after the grief of widowhood.

Manila's diplomatic whirl will certainly miss the Van Remoorteles, whose country has done much to establish community projects in the South, where even angels feel to tread these days, and where it is said that despite the millions in aid, there's nothing but a dirt road to get to Dapitan from Zamboanga.

* * *

PATRONESS of the arts **Melly Ablaza** invited select family and friends to celebrate her one and only Louie's birthday at their residence in New Manila, decorated with cosmopolitan echoes by no less than son Junjun. Guests gathered at the ballroom raved about the *pritson* (deep-fried *lechon de leche* wrapped in pita bread) despite the calories, and enjoyed the jazzy music and Italian wines.

Italian pastas, salads, brochette, and roast beef spread on the buffet table in the dining hall, decorated with silk Tibetan tapestries hung from the ceiling and floral arrangements of Australian proteas, leucadenrons, curly willons and polypodiums ingeniously arranged by Junjun, greeted diplomatic friends such as Russian Ambassador **Anatoli** and Mme. **Valentina Khemelnitzki**, Netherlands Ambassador **Theo** and Mme **Kessara Arnold**, Italian Ambassador **Umberto** and Mme.

SYLVIA Van Remoortele and Beth Day Romulo

ALFRED Hahn and German Ambassador Herbert Jess

LOUIE and Mellie Ablaza

Clara Colesanti, Singaporean Ambassador **Jackie Foo** and Dr. **Yumian Su**, Cambodian Ambassador **EK** and **Mme. Sereywath**, Ambassador **Enrique** and **Letty Syquia**, **Ben Farrales**, **Ethel Timbol**, **Thelma Gana**, **Lulu Castañeda**, **Tereret** and Dr. **Andy Liboro**. A surprise song number by a group of sopranos courtesy of the Ablaza's good friend **Mila Haw** entertained the dinner guests. Cheers, Louie, and may you have many more delightful years ahead.

SAUDI Arabian Ambassador Mohammad Al-Ghamdi, Consul Evie Costa, Ambassador and Mme Enrique Hubbard of Mexico

RUSSIAN Ambassador Anatoli Khmelnitzki, Tereret and Andy Liboro; (standing) Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti, Louie Ablaza, Kessara Arnold and Netherlands Ambassador Theo Arnold

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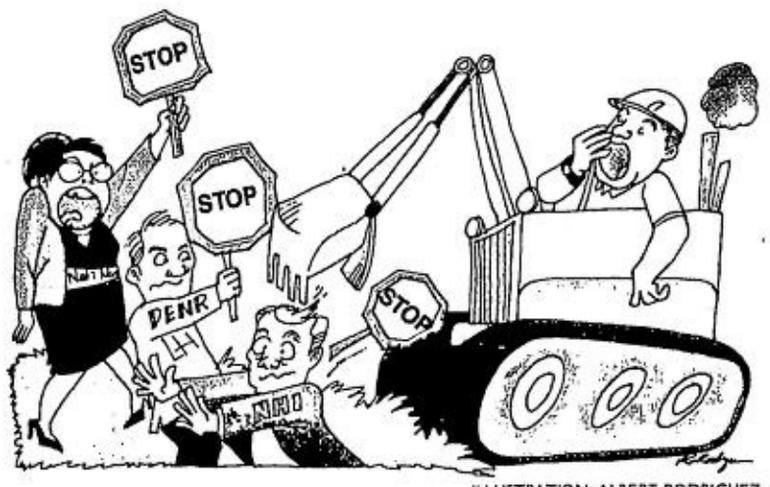

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The wisdom of having a landmarks law

THE HERITAGE Conservation Society authored the landmarks bill precisely to make sure that the government follows standardized conservation guidelines while looking after our heritage. The Society hosted a public forum recently at the Asian Institute of Management to discuss the proposed landmarks bill, with former NCCA Chairman Jaime Laya and Esperanza Gatbonton as reactors.

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

The forum realized that there are indeed laws that protect heritage. Existing legislation assigns overlapping aspects of heritage protection to different government agencies. With such a web of responsibility guarding our built heritage, is there still a need for a landmarks law?

The public is not clear about the responsibilities of the different agencies directly involved with conservation. The protection and maintenance of the 26 Spanish colonial churches, named as National Treasures last year, fall under the responsibility of the National Museum that has a staff to oversee the National Cultural Properties Act and the National Treasures program, and to take care of other monuments (Fort San Pedro, Cebu; Fort

THE WISDOM/ p.E3

Intramuros chief to be indicted

INTRAMUROS Administration head Dominador Ferrer will be arraigned on Wednesday at the Sandiganbayan in connection with the graft case filed against him by heritage conservationists. The case is the first of its kind in Philippine trial history, involving the alleged desecration of cultural patrimony.

Ferrer allegedly contracted out the Puerta Isabel II and Baluarte de San Andres for commercial development in violation of heritage conservation rules and government regulations.

Earlier, the Supreme Court paved the way for the arraignment when it threw out Ferrer's motion for reconsideration. Documents submitted to the court showed Ferrer had signed a contract with the private developer even before consulting the IA board.

Despite the case against him, Ferrer has not gone on leave nor has Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, chair of the IA board, asked him to go on preventive suspension.

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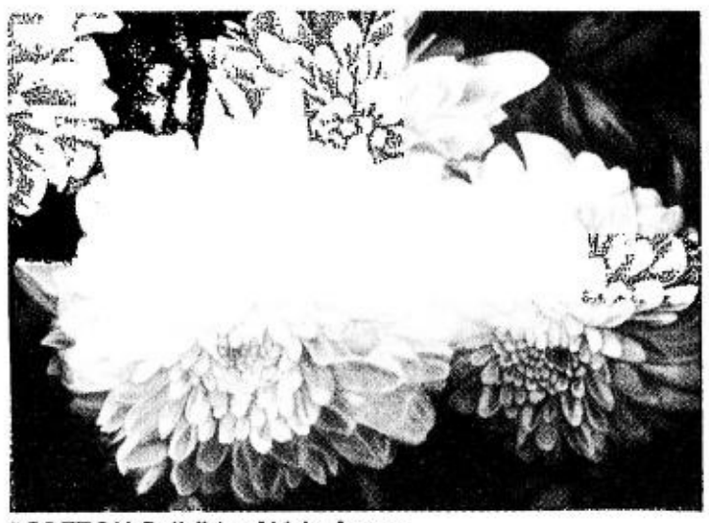
Genesis bares Kulay sa Tubig winners

GALLERY Genesis announces the five best watercolor artists in the Annual Invitational Watercolor Competition, the Kulay sa Tubig Awards, held at the Art Center, SM Megamall on Aug. 1. They are Araceli Limcaco Dans, Aldrie Acosta, Fred Ramirez, Noli Principe Manalang and Jonahmar Salvosa. The five runners-up are Caloy Gabuco, Margarita Lim, Joven Ignacio, Yeye Calderon and Jess Gellada.

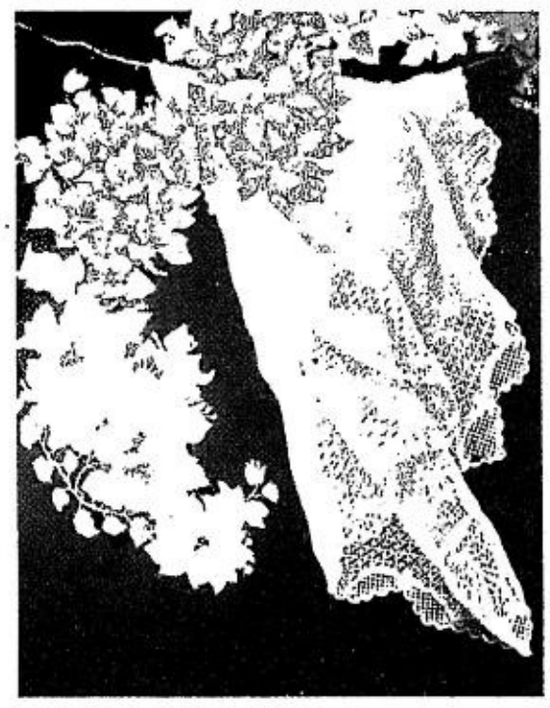
Dans has been elevated to the Gallery Genesis Kulay sa Tubig Hall of Fame for having won three times in the competition.

The top five winners were awarded P10,000 cash and a plaque, while the runners-up were given P2,500 and a certificate. Ten winners were selected from a field of 60 contestants by a distinguished board of judges, composed of art writers and critics.

All entries are exhibited at the Art Center, 4/L SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City, and the Kulay sa Tubig Hall of Fame at Gallery Genesis, SM Megamall until Aug. 13.



"COTTON Balls" by Aldrie Acosta



"SAMPAYAN ni Inay" by Araceli Limcaco Dans

"COLLECTION 1995" by Jonahmar Salvosa

"FISH Vendors" by Oscar Salita at Metro Gallery

JAY Palencia is exhibiting his latest works until Aug. 14 at Gallery 139 (Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati). He will also open an exhibit of ceramic sculptures on Aug. 15 at the Artwalk of SM Megamall. Above is an untitled work in acrylic on canvas.

Physician-artists at Manila Doctors Hospital, Salita at Metro, Barrioquinto at West, Saturday Group at UST Museum

THE MANILA Doctors Hospital's department of surgery will present "Touch of Nature, Series III," a joint exhibit of acrylic paintings by Doctors Romeo and Ela Gutierrez. Dr. Nelson Cabaluna exhibits his woodcrafts. The show runs until Aug. 24 at the hospital lobby, United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila.

ANDRES Barrioquinto shows his latest works in "Sorrow in the House of Beauty" at the West Gallery (Art Walk, 4/L SM Megamall) until Aug. 20. One of the most awarded young artists, Barrioquinto graduated with a fine arts degree in painting from the UST College of Fine Arts and Design, where he was twice given the Benavidez Award (in 1999 and 2000). He is also the first Filipino to win a prize at the International Biennial Print and Drawing Exhibition in Taipei. Call 634-1284.

VISUAL ARTS

OSCAR Salita shows his recent works at the Metro Gallery (455 P. Guevarra St., San Juan) starting today up to Aug. 31. Salita, a fine arts graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, is noted for his women figures and play of colors. Call 725-6751.

SATURDAY Group of Artists members Jose "Ding" Dinglasan, Naning Estrella and Ben Infante will hold an exhibit of their recent works in the various media at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences titled "Agos ng Kulay." The exhibit opens on Aug. 16. On display are Dinglasan's oil pastel and acrylic flowers in bloom, Estrella's watercolor seascapes and Infante's soft pastel landscapes. The exhibit runs until Sept 13.

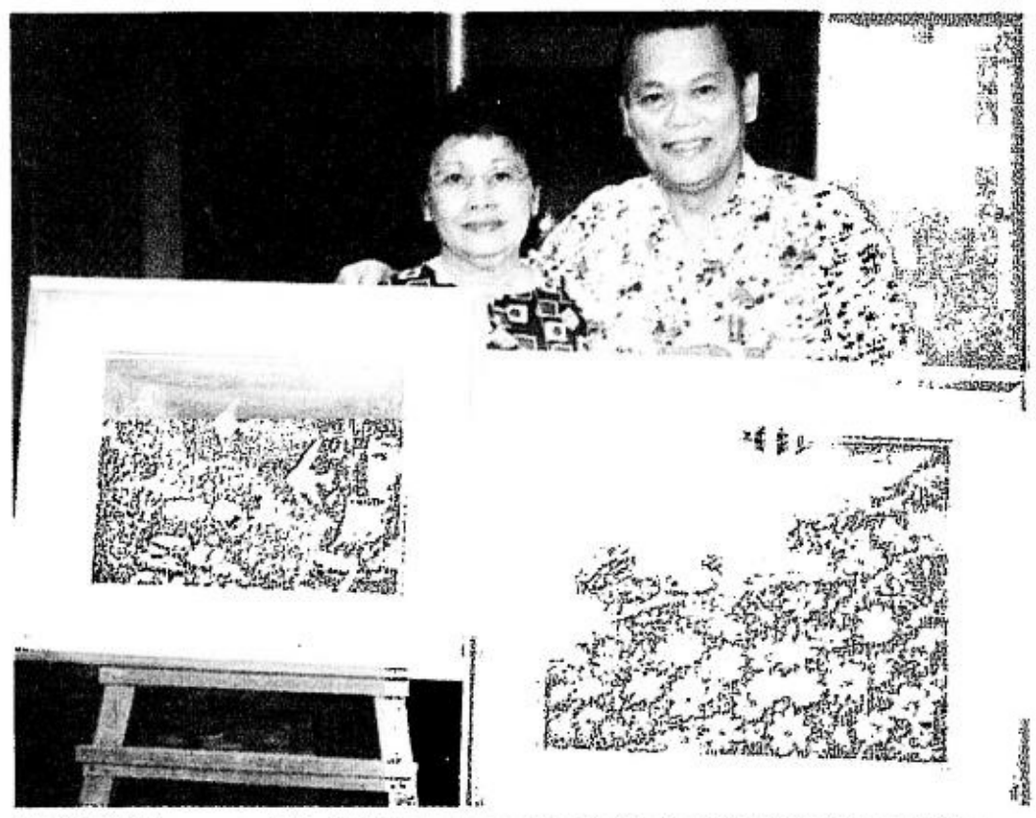
ASIA Art Gallery presents "Sunday Leisure," a nude exhibit featuring noted artists Solomon Saprid, Julius Limpe, Al Perez, Rudolf Gonzales, Fernando Catague, Ben Infante, Edward Tan, George Ng, Wilson Ma, Jess Gellada and Jaime de los Santos. The exhibit opens on Aug. 15, 6 p.m., at the Asia Art Gallery, 6/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City, and will run until Aug. 22.

FERDIE Montemayor, recipient of the CCP Thirteen Artists Award in 1994, holds his 10th one-man show "Lupa," at West Gallery, 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City, Aug 15-27. The artist's four paintings show a bustling metropolis. Call 752-7028 to -29.

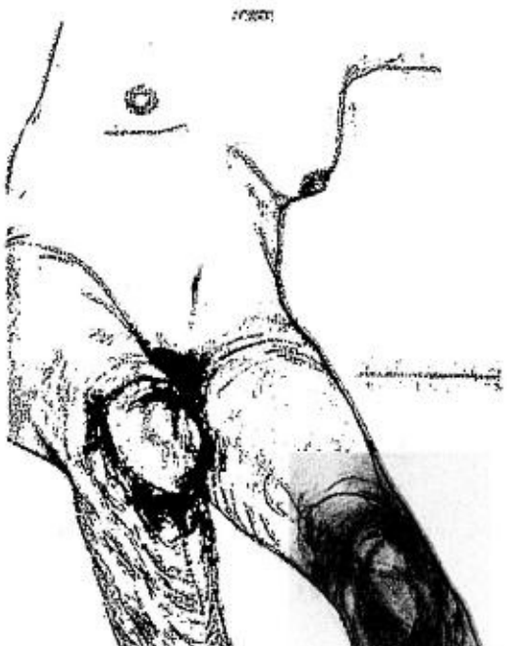
THE DRAWING Room (G/F Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City) presents "Crossing," a group exhibit by Noel Soler Cuizon, Karen Ocampo Flores, Kiko Escora and Irma Lacorte. The four artists will present works that play on the so-called signs of our times. The exhibit will run until Aug. 28. Call 897-6990/7877.

KOREAN artist In Kwan Park celebrates the Independence Day of Korea on Aug. 15 through an exhibit at the Llongoren Gallery (111 corner New York and Stanford Streets, Cubao, QC). Dubbed "Recent Works: Image-Memory-Journey," In Kwan's tribute is a series of "visual diaries" of the past and modern explorations of celebrating one's homeland. "Recent Works: Image-Memory-Journey," the artist's second one-man show in the Philippines, runs until Aug. 24. Call 912-4640/4319.

"ECLECTIC Expressions II," ongoing at the Enterprise Center (corner Ayala and Paseo de Roxas Avenues, Makati City), displays the best works of Prudencio Lamarroza, Tam Austria, Manuel Baldemor, Emmanuel Garibay, Philip Badon, Edsel Moscoso, Angelito Antonio, Remy Boquiren, Caloy Gabuco, Marcel Antonio, Jeff Dizon, Al Bandalan, Fred Alcuaz, Norma Belleza, Bal Fornaliza, Gene de Loyola and Nestor Leynes.



DOCTORS Romeo and Ela Gutierrez are wedded to their medical practice and their art. Their exhibit will be formally opened by INQUIRER editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc.



NUDE by Andres Barrioquinto at West Gallery

The exhibit runs until Aug 17. Call 935-3272 or 303-7086.

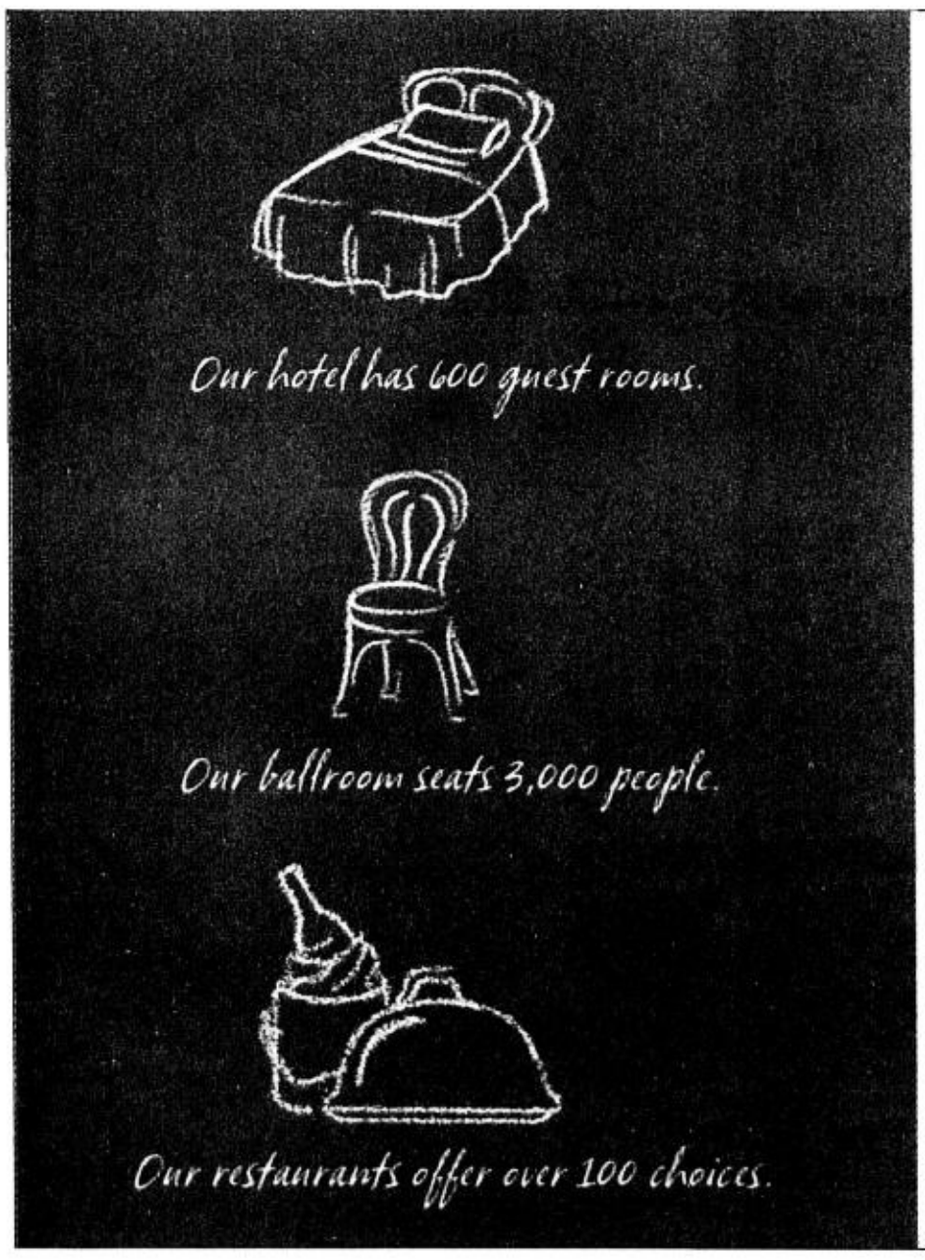
"CONVERSATION" at the Art Center of SM Megamall, Aug 16-Sept 1, features such artists as Juan Alcazaren, Ronald Anading, Ringo Bunoan, Jonathan Ching, Lena Cobangbang, Louie Cordero, Pardo de Leon, Emil Dimar, Nona Garcia, Nilo Ilarde, Geraldine Javier, Jet Melencio, Elaine Roberto-Navas, Lubin Nepomuceno, Jayson Oliveria, Gary-Ross Pastrana, Ikoy Ricio, Juni Salvador, Popo San Pascual, Yasmin Sison, Gerardo Tan, Wire Tuazon, Alvin Villaruel, M M Yu, Reggie Yuson and Alvin Zafra.

BERNARDO Pacquing will present his latest works in his sixth one-man show, "Tongue and Groove," at the Finale Art File (4/F LaO Centre, corner Pasay Road and Makati Avenue, Makati City), Aug. 15-Sept. 3.

"GABRIEL," the third solo exhibit of artist Federico F. Sievert, opens at Boston Gallery on Aug. 17, 6 p.m. Sievert's recent works are a reflection of his joys and anxieties of being a father. The exhibit will run until Sept 6. Call 722-9205.

THE ALCOVE Photo Gallery will hold a three-Saturday workshop on the fundamentals of photography with Ibarra Deri on Aug. 17, 24 and 31, (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at the Filipinas Heritage Library. Limited slots only. Call 892-1801.

THE LOPEZ Museum presents "Quezon and Magsaysay: Symbols of Strong Leadership in Philippine Political History," a lecture by Manuel L. Quezon III, columnist and editorial writer, at Fernando's (Rockwell Club) on Aug. 21, 12 nn-2:30 p.m. The talk will discuss the conscious efforts of the two leaders to enhance the prestige of the presidency through symbolism, such as their dress, habits and use of the presidential palace. Call 631-2417 or 449-2355.



EMMANUEL GARCIA

Reaching for the sun

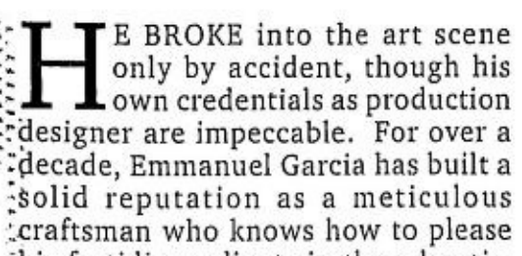
By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

HE BROKE into the art scene only by accident, though his own credentials as production designer are impeccable. For over a decade, Emmanuel Garcia has built a solid reputation as a meticulous craftsman who knows how to please his fastidious clients in the advertising industry, be they multinational companies, NGOs out to win the hearts and minds of people, or publishers of pocketbooks.

The best proof of his success is the long list of prize-winning TV commercials he has done to date, not to mention countless films, home interiors, calendars, even floats he has designed for various companies. He probably has the largest collection of gold and silver awards tucked from the annual Advertising Congress.

Since the sell-out success of his first solo show last year, Garcia has seriously taken up painting again to renew his liaison with the muse. This time around, he has trained his sights on a theme dear to his heart as well as to all Pinoys who constantly dream of traveling to distant lands. In his boldly unfettered, totally freewheeling style, Garcia has conjured up fragments of dreams and fantasies in the vast space we call the global village.

"In the Eye of the Sun" (Finale Artfile) is an apt title to describe a world with an omnipresent orb symbolizing the great source of life and energy and the sense of wanderlust it rightfully evokes. Indeed, the show revolves around infinitesimal variations of the travel theme, which Garcia explores in both the physical and metaphysical realms, beginning with the primal colors so essential to his theme, ranging from morning sunbursts to melancholic evenings.



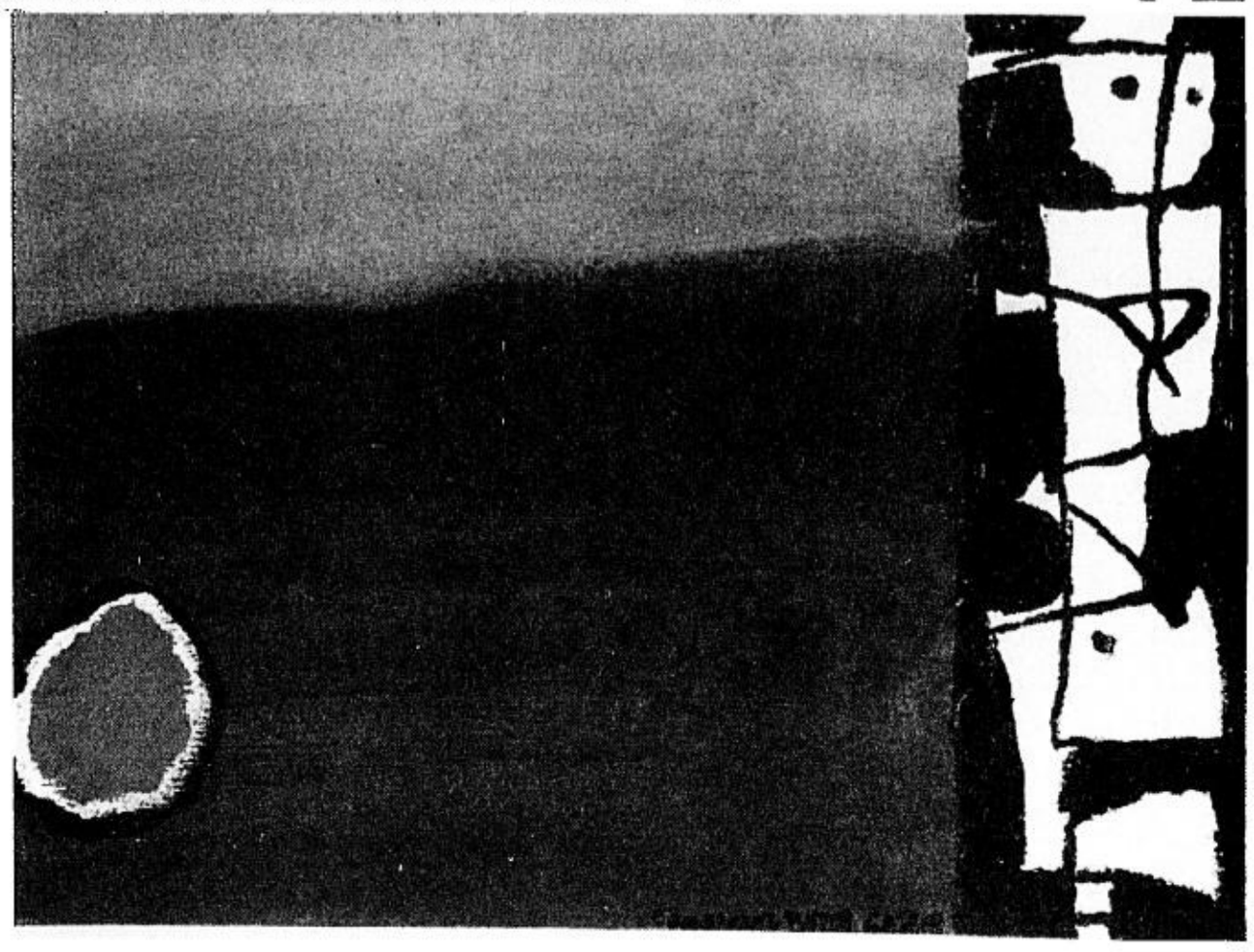
"UNTITLED" 2

Intrepid

Being an intrepid colorist, Garcia experiments with all the hues imaginable, from those conjured by blazing skies and watery comets, and those resplendent scapes where "matadors stand mute witnesses" and where "Gaugin gamely sips coffee with the prolific Picasso and the angst-ridden Ang Kiukok."

The compositions evoke images of a particular place that has been stored in memory, the artist being an inveterate traveler who scours sites around the country (as well as abroad) for his numerous shoots. The destination may be a pristine Tahitian coast, a Madrid bullfighting arena, a Nairobi desert, depending on the naturescape unfolding before us and the representation of the black-and-white figures that reside on one side of the canvas, signifying the spectator witnessing a particular event from that great window of life.

There, too, is a strongly primal, childlike quality to Garcia's compositions, which is mainly the result of his having no formal training in painting, and choosing to work with no particular models to guide him by. Having chosen to blaze his own path, he came up with a style that soaks in the riotous revelry of the tropical colors associated with Southeast Asian cultures.

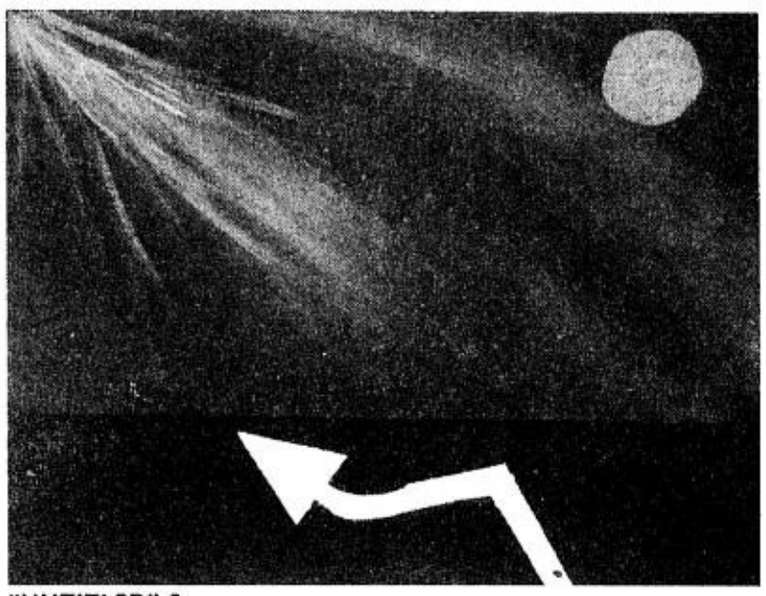


"UNTITLED" 1

The titles likewise carry humorous puns that reflect the follies of media practice, including the local cinema, which somehow doesn't run out of absurdly funny ways to sell its products. Long familiar with the jargon of advertising and the marketing of products, he presumably is engaged in a serio-comic discussion of the everyday staple we call art and culture.

Garcia is not about to turn deadly serious with his artistic ruminations. Happily, the works breathe of life, its gaiety and revelry, elemental love and lust seemingly intertwined in art as they should in life. The entire exhibit is a paean to life, as the artist himself prefers to live it—to the hilt.

For comments, e-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com.



"UNTITLED" 3

The wisdom . . .

From page E1

Pilar, Zamboanga; the Kabayan mummy caves in Sagada, and others) entrusted to the National Museum.

Another government agency, the National Historical Institute, installs the familiar black markers that identify sites of historical significance. Their mandate includes the protection of such sites as the Rizal Shrines in Fort Santiago, Calamba and Dapitan (Zamboanga del Norte); the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite; and Barasoain Church in Malolos.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) exercises administrative jurisdiction over both the National Museum and the NHI who are members of the Commission. However, the NCCA has its own Monuments and Sites Committee that participates in formulating conservation policies and has carried out a series of successful conservation awareness activities all over the country for the past decade. The same NCCA committee has strong links with the Commission on Church Heritage of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, which looks after church patrimony.

All appear to be interconnected, but who is in charge? Where does one go if a heritage situation arises?

Mehan

Take the Mehan Garden issue for example. The issue was to stop the construction of the City Colleges campus on the open site. By virtue of Mehan Garden having been marked as a historical site in the mid 1930s, the NHI had to be consulted before a new structure could be constructed. The historic site declaration overlapped with the National Museum declaration that Mehan Garden was a pre-Hispanic trading site that subsequently became the location of the Parian during the Spanish era. It was declared by the National Museum as an archaeological site. Therefore, museum archaeologists had to certify that new construction could proceed. Upon digging a test pit at the height of the Mehan controversy, significant artifacts were found less than a meter below ground level. That discovery required the halt of any construction until the completion of an in-depth archaeological test.

If the NHI and the National Museum caveats were not enough to halt construction at Mehan Garden, then the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources provided the final blow. An environmental clearance certificate must be secured before any construction can proceed. For Mehan Garden, the DENR ultimately stopped the construction by refusing to issue the ECC unless all other impediments, meaning the NHI and National Museum, were cleared first.

As seen in the Mehan Garden controversy, the mandates of the agencies that protect our heritage simply lack the teeth for proper enforcement. Without question, more bite should be put behind the individual sets of teeth. But should the powers of each of the agencies be strengthened or should there be an overriding landmarks law to provide the basic framework for all of the agencies to follow?

Council and registry

The landmarks bill seeks the establishment of a Landmarks Council composed of experts from the government and non-government areas to guide the conservation of heritage. The council should have strong LGU participation. Police powers will be necessary for carrying out conservation projects.

There should be a National Landmarks Registry where all heritage places are catalogued and categorized. The registered landmarks are protected with strict conservation guidelines, assisted by an endowment fund and financial incentives to encourage conservation. If necessary, state funds can be used for the conservation of private structures that are inscribed in the National Landmarks Registry.

The registry is a list of places that should not be confined to the built heritage. It should also include cultural landscapes such as the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, protected landscapes and seascapes such as those in Batanes, urbanscapes like the Tagaytay Ridge, Roxas Blvd. in Manila and Rizal Bldvd. in Dumaguete.

To maintain the integrity of the places inscribed in the Landmarks Registry, the proposed legislation will provide technical expertise to those who need it. The law will define responsibilities and the basic principles for conservation.

Most important, the draft of the landmarks bill states that awareness campaigns must be constant.

That heritage has finally become a concern among a growing number of public officials and citizens is a good sign. The landmarks bill, if passed into law, hopes to consolidate public and private efforts and to standardize the approach to heritage conservation so that more of our heritage places will continue to live for our next generation.

Feedback is welcome at afv@pacific.net.ph

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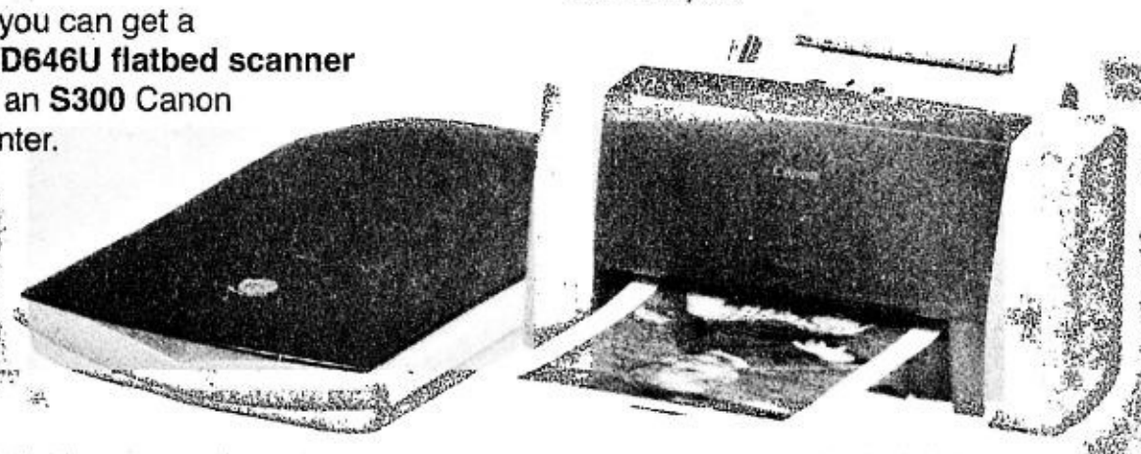

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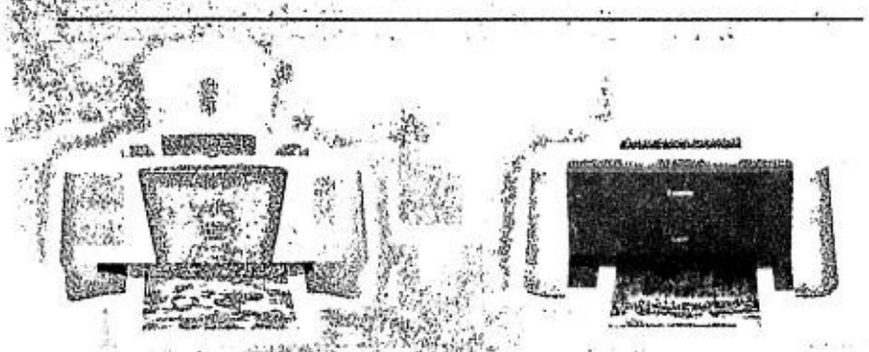

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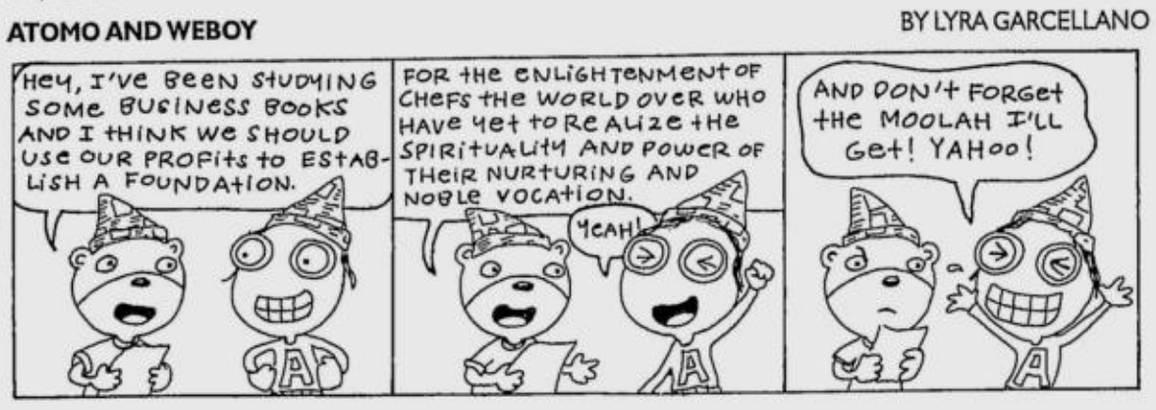
Canon
Technology that makes you smile

Your Comic Relief did not live true to its name in last Saturday's August 10 issue due to a glitch in the transition to a new editorial system. We are putting out today the laughs that would have been yours that day. Our apologies, especially to those who only read the comics in the INQUIRER.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

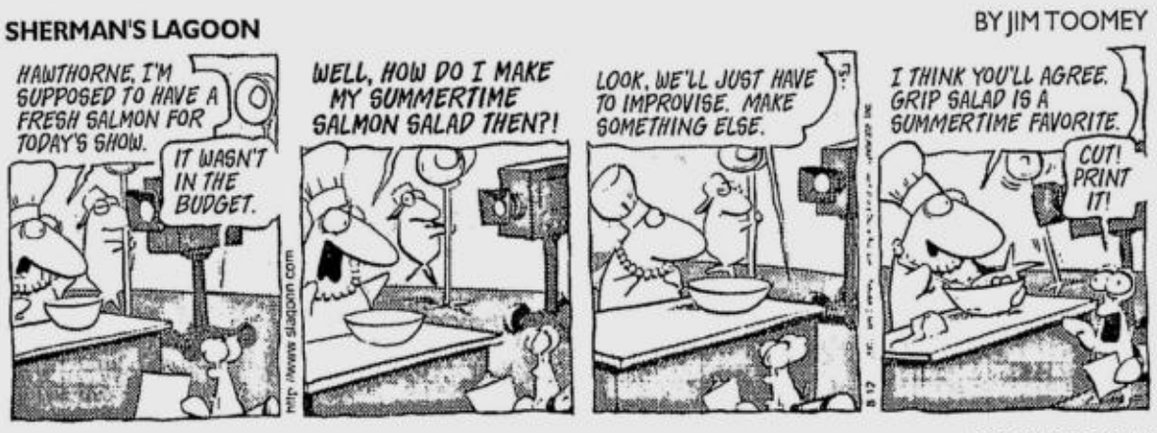
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY



SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bill Cosby, Richard Simmons, Milton Berle, Kristi Yamaguchi
Happy Birthday: Your imagination will spark a host of creative ideas that you should try to embellish. You will be able to express yourself well and should be able to clear up any issues that arise at an emotional level. focus on what's most important to you. Your numbers are 2, 13, 28, 34, 42, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put all your troubles behind you and plan to have a fun-filled day. This is a time to put yourself first and give in to your own needs. Travel if the opportunity arises.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone you care about may have disappointed you unintentionally. Don't be too hard on him or her. Your logical approach to life is being undermined by your emotions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can form a solid partnership today if you are honest about your intentions. New developments will occur and you should be able to elaborate on something important that you've been involved in.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make money through your own creative efforts. Take the time to talk to someone who might show an interest. Advancement and potential opportunities could be yours if you make your move.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will have everyone listening to and watching you today. You can entice others to join you in whatever you want to do. Don't forget about the people who have supported you the longest.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may have to decipher what it is that someone is trying to tell you. Someone you are dealing with will be evading issues that must be brought out into the open. If logic doesn't work, take another approach.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You have so much to offer if you get involved in a worthy cause. Being lazy might be tempting today but you will end up missing out on meeting someone interesting. Get out and make friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This may be a difficult day for you emotionally. If someone isn't being as responsive as you would like them to be, don't fret. If you can learn something new, you will have more to contribute to your partnership.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your quick actions and love of adventure will draw others toward you. You will be in a social mood and should attend events that will provide you with the excitement you are looking for. The spotlight will be on you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Focus on moneymaking deals and you will feel happy when the day ends. You can make financial gains through property or small business ventures. Minor health problems may surface.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be questioning the way you feel about the different people in your life. Take a fresh approach to the way you deal with others and you'll probably get a much better response.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have plenty of energy when it comes to getting ahead. You'll impress others with your ability and dedication. Mix business with pleasure if at all possible.

Birthday Baby: Restlessness and aggressive behavior will result if you don't learn to channel your energy wisely. You will thrive on using your brain.

DAILY CROSSWORD

By Roger Coburn
Summerville, GA
8/12/02

ACROSS
1 Chic
6 Boat canvas
10 Charitable donations
14 Cow feature
15 "The __ Ranger"
16 Tangible
17 World-weary
18 John Ruskin's "__ This Last"
19 Singer Tennille
20 Ballplayer holding a tree?
22 __ Penh
23 Sucker
24 Arm of a sea
26 Tinker's tasks
30 Bosc or anjou
31 Carpenter and Valentine
32 Actress Farrow
33 Deeds
37 Accumulate
38 Eye cover
39 Shucks
40 Poisonous evergreens
41 Jazzy instrument
42 Most of Mali
43 "National Velvet" writer Bagnold
45 Ennui
46 Certain cookout
49 Pierced lobe
50 Pentium makers
51 Actor holding a tree?
57 Kindling
58 Long, straight and limp
59 Hank of hair
60 Neat and tidy
61 Suspicious of
62 Heronlike bird
63 Female fowl
64 Adolescent
65 Gift recipient

DOWN
1 Sci. or math, e.g.
2 1551
3 Comic Sandler
4 Breathing: abbr.
5 Betrayals of trust
6 Losing streaks
7 First-rate
8 Undaunted
9 Zodiac sign
10 Tennis player holding a tree?
11 Hotelier Helmsley
12 Landed estate
13 Viscous
21 Science rms.
22 Sch. org.
25 Salton or Caspian
26 Acceptable
27 Knight's lady
28 Sketch
29 Senator holding a tree?
32 Shuffle
34 African nation
35 Starchy root
36 Dog-paddled
38 __ Grey (nineday queen)
39 Repeated without understanding
41 Respectful address
42 Saturate
44 Org. of Giants and Titans
45 Summon hither
46 Liquor quantity
47 Habituate
48 Pewter mug
52 Feed the kitty
53 Jason's galley
54 "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" composer
55 Oh yeah, right
56 First family of Ferrara
58 Plat section

Friday's Puzzle Solved

E	L	L	A	■	C	O	C	A	S	■	S	C	A	T
L	O	A	N	■	E	V	A	D	E	■	H	O	L	E
B	U	T	T	E	R	A	N	D	T	H	U	M	B	S
A	T	H	O	M	E	■	T	O	D	O	■	B	U	T
■	■	■	N	A	B	S	■	N	O	N	C	O	M	S
S	O	N	■	I	R	A	S	■	W	E	E	■	■	■
W	R	A	P	L	A	C	E	A	N	D	T	E	A	M
A	C	R	E	■	■	K	O	N	■	■	E	R	N	E
P	A	Y	A	N	D	S	U	N	N	Y	S	I	D	E
■	■	■	T	E	E	■	L	U	A	U	■	S	S	T
B	A	T	S	M	A	N	■	L	I	R	A	■	■	■
E	T	H	■	A	L	U	M	■	A	T	H	E	N	A
S	H	O	O	T	E	M	A	N	D	S	E	V	E	N
T	O	L	D	■	R	E	T	I	E	■	M	E	R	E
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Grand sale on books, school and office supplies

NATIONAL Bookstore's "Grand Cut Price Sale" is back, from Aug. 14 to Sept. 15. The bookstore chain offers up to 70-percent off on all books and selected school and office supplies.

Fiction selections on sale at P199 include "Omerta" by Mario Puzo, "The Constant Gardener" by John Le Carre, and Danielle Steel's "Irresistible Forces." Tom Clancy's "Power Plays" and "Net Force" are down to P111.25, and Sandra Brown's "The Witness" is P72.75.

Relive "The Olympic Games: Athens 1896-Sydney 2000," a picture-packed reference at only P322.50. Enjoy biographies "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius" by Dave Eggers at P199, and Ernest Hemingway's "True at First Sight" at P165.

Children will go crazy over Harry Potter sticker books (P201 each), Disney and Rugrats storybooks (P49). Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys books (49.50), and giant flash cards on different themes sell for only P191.25.

"The Complete Idiot's Guide" series goes as low as P199 per book, including "Learning Sign Language," "Making Money through Intuition," "Winning Through Negotiation," "Brand Management" and "Team Building."

"Inside Chinese Business" by Ming Jer-Chen is down to P262.50, and Burton's Legal Thesaurus is also 50-percent off at P382.50. Kelley's "Textbook of Internal Medicine" is a bargain at P2,485.

Feed your soul as well with "Kitchen Table Wisdom: Stories That Heal" by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D., at P259, and "Self-Matters: Creating Your Life from the Inside Out" by Philip C. Me Graw, Ph.D., at P575. Neale Donald Walsh's "Communion with God" is P165, and "Friendship with God" is P185. "I Was Just Wondering" by Philip Yancey answers questions about God for only P123.

Cookbooks are hardbound bargains with "Grilling with Flavour" at only P271 and "Garlic Garlic Garlic" at P245.75. "Strange Foods: An Epicurean Adventure Around the World" is an exotic adventure at only P296.75.

On top of all the bargain books, buyers can get a free carry-all foldable bag for every purchase of P1,000. Visit any National Bookstore branch for inquiries.

Ateneo-published novels are prescribed school readings

SEVEN novels published by the Ateneo de Manila University Press have been identified by the Department of Education as sources of illustrative texts in the reading and analysis of the Tagalog novel for fourth-year high-school students.

The public is invited to read and enjoy these classic works: "Pinaglahuan" by Faustino Aguilar, "Canal de la Reina" and "Titser" by Liwayway Arceo, "Ang Tundo Man May Langit Din" by Andres Cristobal Cruz, "Timawa" by Agustin Fabian, "Maganda Pa ang Daigdig" by Lazaro Francisco and "Pusong Walang Pagibig" by Roman Reyes.

These and many other Ateneo Press titles will be sold during the Philippine Bookfair at the 5/F SM Megamall, Mandaluyong, Aug. 31-Sept. 8. They may also be ordered through bookstores nationwide. Call 426-5984, 426-6001 local 4612/6, fax 426-5909, or e-mail unipress@admu.edu.ph.

UST stages 'Portrait' in South Korea

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Graduate School Academic Theaters (GSAT) will stage Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino" in the 14th Koechang International Festival of Theater (KIFT) in South Korea until Aug. 17.

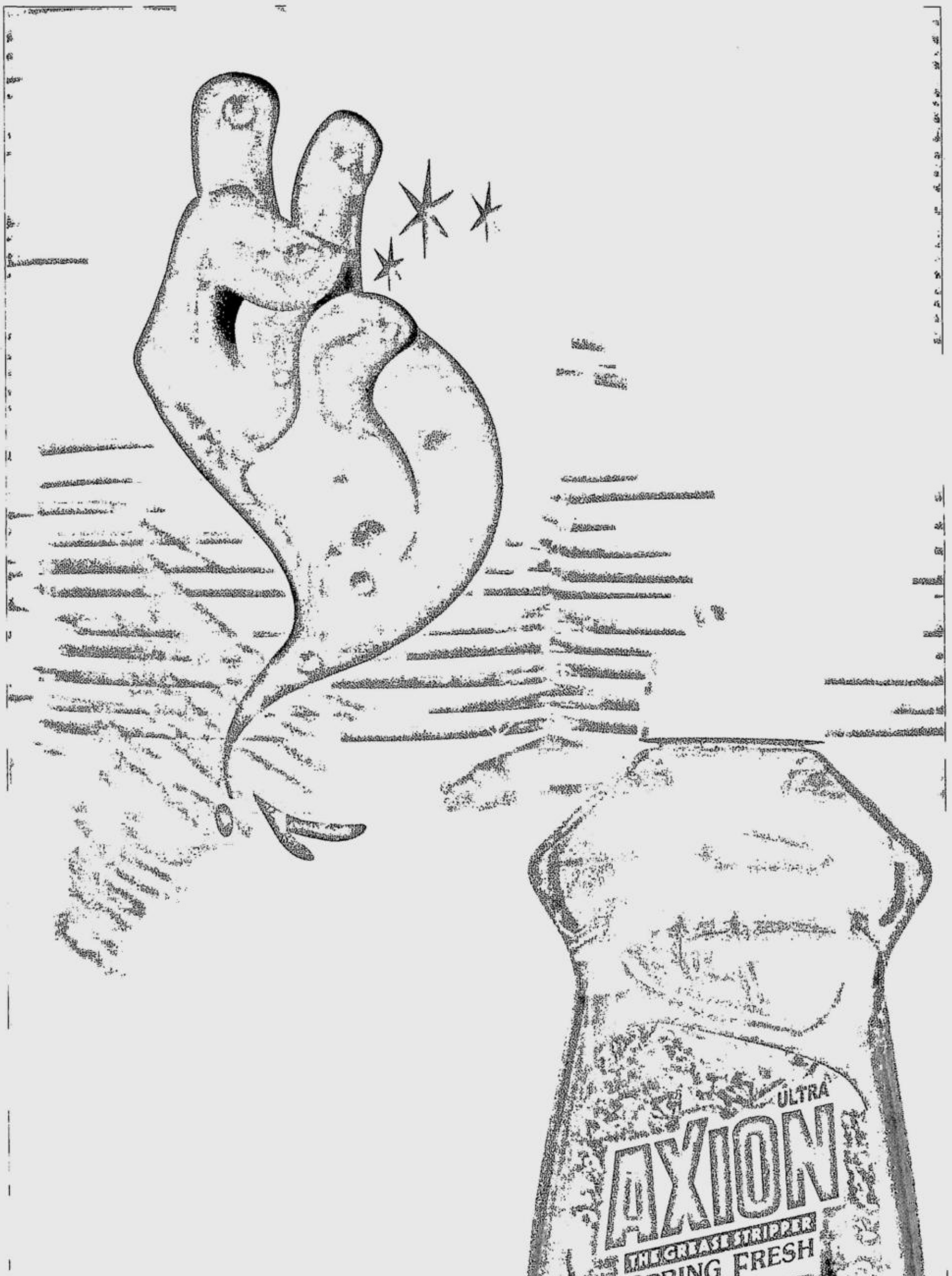
The GSAT is an academic theatrical group composed of students, friends, alumni, faculty and administration of the Graduate School of UST. Since 1998, the GSAT has been performing at the Little Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, on campus and in the provinces.

The role of Bitoy will be played by academic vice-rector and Graduate School regent Rev. Fr. Antonio Aureada, O.P. Tony Javier will be played by Tots Aguila, an M.A. candidate and faculty member of the UST Faculty of Pharmacy and Medical Technology. The sisters Candida and Paula will be played by Dr. Nina Cabral, faculty member of the Graduate School and the College of Commerce, and Lala Castillo, a doctoral candidate and elementary principal of the St. Scholastica's College.

Other performers include Dr. Conrad Montemayor, Dr. Irma Bustamante, Dr. Grace de la Calzada, Tess Capacete, Sheila Cataluña, Bien Mabayyad, Ramil Sarga, Agui Jalin, Joe Castillo and Gem de la Calzada.

Dr. Belen Tangco is GSAT executive producer. Multiawarded actress, educator and writer Prof. Naty Crame Rogers is directing the play with Dr. Mila Tanlayco as associate director and project director. Lamberto Avellana Jr. is sound designer while Jimmy Rapanut is lighting designer. Bien Mabayyad is stage manager while Buenafe Antonio and Tess Capacaete are in charge of makeup. Gigi Bunzalan handles documentation and Lala Castillo is costume mistress.

Juseong College in Seoul will play host to the GSAT troupe, which is scheduled to give two performances.



The French Amy Tan

From page E6

Excellent storyteller

He is an excellent storyteller and I'm simply amazed at how he turned the tale of two adolescents into a poignant and engagingly playful narrative. He unwittingly takes the reader to a beguiling journey where the story happens, punctuated by amusing and often humorous twists.

But the beauty of human experiences that Sijie describes goes far beyond the mountains of Western China, the exotic setting of his novel. "Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress" may be a simple tale, yet Sijie's narrative eloquence seduces one's imagination.

Even when he is simply describing the grimy home of the tailor, the peasant's dormitory, the dark copper mines, the village headman's teeth or a mere laughter—"so piercing, so wild and echoing so far and wide that even the birds took wing in fright"—Sijie inevitably captures the senses.

The author even manages to build suspense when the boys break into the house of Four Eyes to steal his suitcase, which contains novels by Victor Hugo, Stendhal, Dumas, Flaubert, Baudelaire, Romain Rolland, Rousse, Tolstoy, Gogol, Dostoevsky, and some English writers such as Kipling and Emily Brontë.

The filmmaker in Sijie figures in the book repeatedly. He makes references to the likes of Sylvester Stallone and Ingmar Bergman.

Oral cinema

In the rural village, the boys put up an oral cinema, where villagers cram in front of a house on stilts and listen to Luo's genius storytelling about a movie they had seen in town. It is the villagers' only form of entertainment and they are moved to tears with every movie.

Luo electrifies the audience with his animated storytelling, made all the more fascinating by his perfectly timed voice even after a bout with malaria.

Sijie is apparently also a music lover since he infuses the music of Mozart, Brahms and a Beethoven sonata throughout the narrative. The strains of Luo's violin occasionally figure in the boys' life on the mountain.

Sijie's Chinese and French influences (to this day, he still lives and works in France) are likewise depicted in his novel.

Sijie's biography on the Internet says that "Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress" became an immediate bestseller in France, where it was first released in 2000. And, just like Amy Tan's "Joy Luck Club," "Balzac" will soon be made into a film.

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Bawat patak, may dalang Axion grease stripping power.
Kaya, tanggal ang sebo sa plato mo.
Mas marami pa itong nalilinis kaysa iba.

The French Amy Tan

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress
By Dai Sijie
Translated by Ina Rilke
172 pages

By Leah Salterio

DAI Si... who?

The name Dai Sijie doesn't sound at all familiar. In fact, most bookworms I asked don't even know him.

That's understandable, considering the fact that "Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress" is just Sijie's first book. He is a Chinese-born filmmaker who has lived in France for nearly two decades now. His novel was originally written in French and translated into English by Ina Rilke. The rights have been sold to 19 countries, so a Chinese translation is definitely in the market.

During a recent trip abroad, I was attracted to Sijie's book in an airport bookstore because the novel carries an endorsement by Amy Tan, another Chinese author whose works like "Joy Luck Club," "The Kitchen God's Wife," "The Hundred Secret Senses" and "The Bonesetter's Daughter," I have read in the past.

The endorsement was hard to ignore. Tan said of Sijie's first novel: "A mesmerizing story, full of riches as in the best tales. My imagination and heart were seized."

"Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress" is said to be Sijie's autobiographical novel. The lead character, who is also the narrator, is unnamed. He has a best friend named Luo.

Cultural revolution

The setting is 1971, when Mao's cultural revolution was at its peak. It was also at that time when the author had his reeducation.

The two adolescents in the book are sons of doctors who are sent to reeducation camps. They are sent to work in a rural village on the mountain, known as Phoenix in the Sky. The name is poetic, suggesting a terrifying altitude.

The boys are forced to carry buckets of human dung up and down a tortuous, serpentine and narrow mountain path, not even wide enough for a handcart. Human body is the sole means of transport. They can't muster any enthusiasm for work, but they have their sense of humor to keep them going, although the attractive daughter of a local tailor helps distract them from their grubby task.

Sijie writes a detailed description about the work of the boys on the mountain and I couldn't help but cringe at its vividness.

"Each day, we had to fill the buckets with a mixture of excrement and water, hoist them onto our shoulders and clamber up the mountainside to the fields, many of which were situated to dizzying heights. With each step, we could hear the liquid sewage sloshing in the bucket just behind our ears. The slurry would seep through the lid and trickle down our bodies until we were soaked.

"Dear reader, I will spare you the details of each faltering step; suffice it to say that the slightest false move was potentially fatal."

Sijie also refers to the Little Chinese Seamstress as the "princess" of Phoenix mountain. She wears cheap, homemade shoes in a place where everyone goes barefoot.

"Her eyes had the gleam of uncut gems of unpolished metal, heightened by the long lashes and the delicate slant of the lids. She has a glowing complexion with fine features, feminine sweetness and child-like sincerity."

Reeducation

The boys' reeducation starts when they discover a hidden suitcase packed with prohibited Western novels of the 19th century, owned by Four Eyes. The books alter their lives because for several years, Mao's Little Red Book was the only source of intellectual knowledge in China.

Sijie proves that literature can indeed change one's life. Even before the boys discover the novels inside the mysterious suitcase, they convince Four Eyes to give them an old book by Balzac (Ba-er-zar-ke). The French author brings about a significant effect in the boys lives through his moving fiction about romance and miracles.

The same novel also transforms the Little Chinese Seamstress from a simple mountain girl to a sophisticated lady. She says that one thing she learned from Balzac is that "a woman's beauty is a treasure beyond price."

There is nothing mushy about Sijie's novel. There are pockets of romantic interlude between Luo and the Little Chinese Seamstress, but that was as far as Sijie went.

I was hooked to the novel for two consecutive nights. It is an easy reading material, perhaps just like Robert James Waller's "Bridges of Madison County," which I finished in one sitting.

But while "Bridges" made my lachrymal glands work to the hilt, "Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress" is not melodramatic. There are no tearjerkers, nor is there any cliffhanger at the end of a chapter. Sijie merely weaves a flowing story that makes you want to read on and on.

REVIEW

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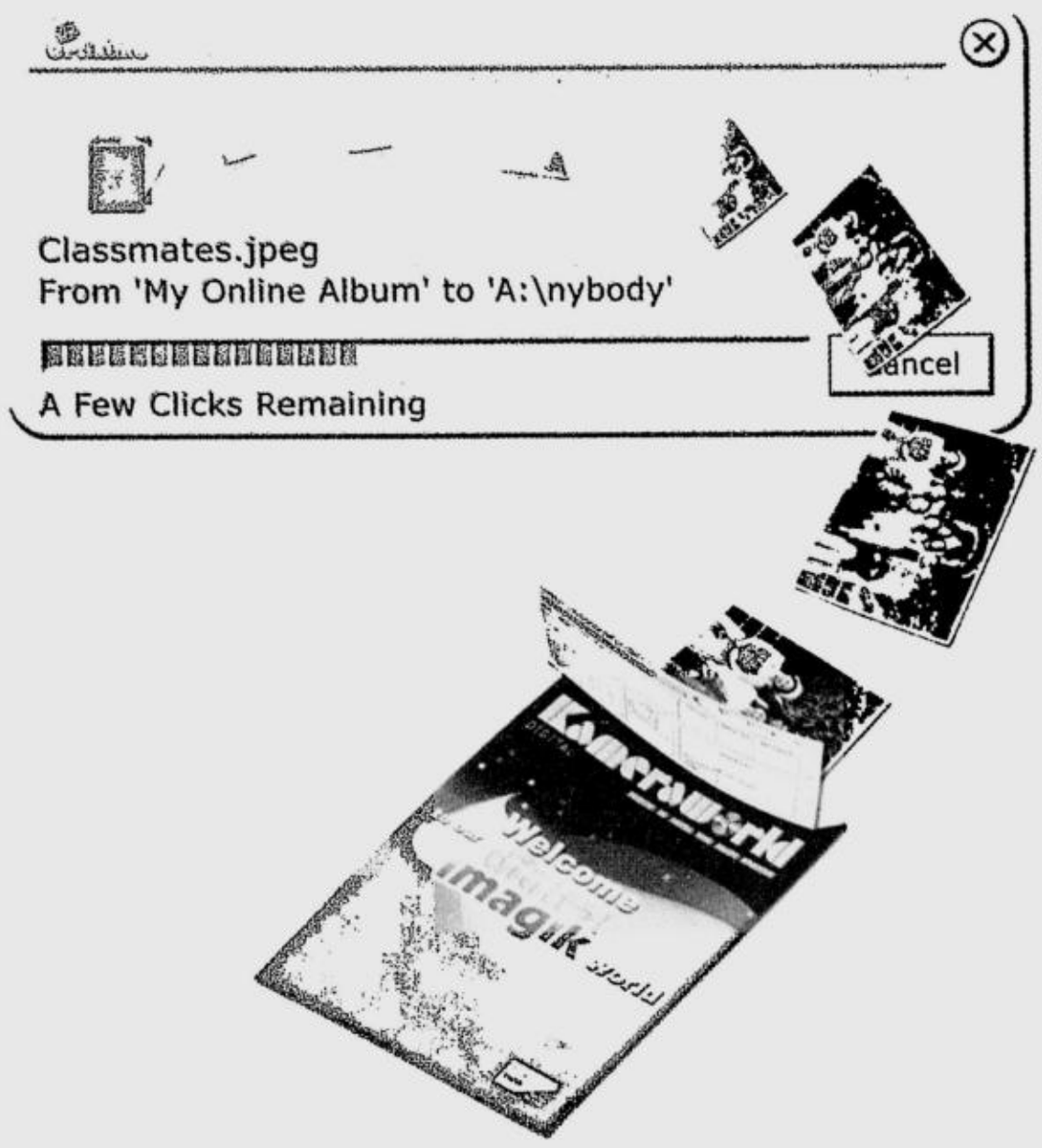

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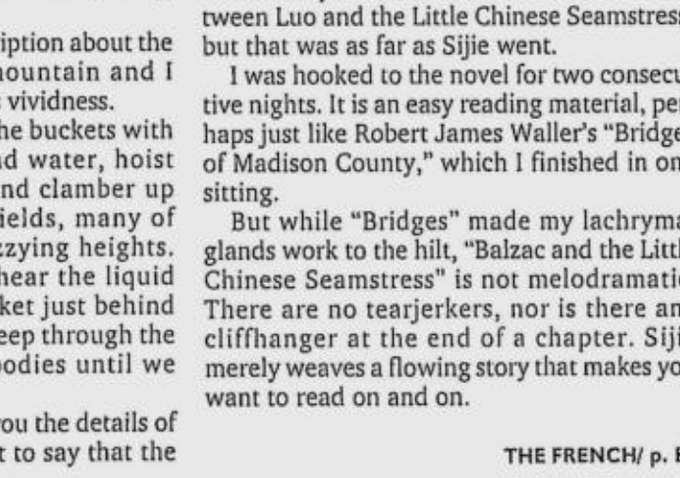

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